Minutes

Metropolitan Council

Meeting date: May 27, 2026 **Time**: 4:00 PM **Location:** 390 Robert Street

Members present:

- ☒ Chair, Robin Hutcheson
- ☐ Judy Johnson, District 1
- ☒ Reva Chamblis, District 2
- ☐ Tyronne Carter, District 3
- ☒ Deb Barber, District 4
- ☒ John Pacheco Jr., District 5
- ☒ Robert Lilligren, District 6
- ☐ Yassin Osman, District 7
- ☐ Anjuli Cameron, District 8
- ☒ Diego Morales, District 9
- ☒ Peter Lindstrom, District 10
- ☐ Gail Cederberg, District 11
- ☒ Mark Jenkins, District 12
- ☒ Chai Lee, District 13
- ☒ Toni Carter, District 14
- ☒ Victor Obisakin, District 15
- ☒ Wendy Wulff, District 16

☒ = present, E = excused

Dakota Land, Water, and People Acknowledgment

The Metropolitan Council acknowledges that the land we currently call Minnesota and specifically the seven-county region is the ancestral homeland of the Dakota Oyate who are present and active contributors to our thriving region. As part of the Metropolitan Council's commitment to address the unresolved legacy of genocide, dispossession, and settler colonialism and the fact that government institutions, including the Metropolitan Council, benefitted economically, politically, and institutionally after the forceable removal of the Dakota Oyate, the Metropolitan Council is dedicated to instilling Land, Water, and People Commitments in regional policy. These commitments support the Dakota Oyate, the eleven federally recognized Tribes in Minnesota, Ho-Chunk Nation, and the American Indian Communities representing over 150 diverse Tribal Nations that call the seven-county region home.

Call to order

A quorum being present, Council Chair Hutcheson called the regular meeting of the Metropolitan Council to order at 4:04 p.m.

Dakota Land, Water, and People Acknowledgment

The Dakota Land, Water, and People Acknowledgment was read by Council Member Wulff.

Agenda approved

Council members did not have any comments or changes to the agenda.

Approval of minutes

It was moved by Morales, seconded by Lilligren to approve the minutes of the May 13, 2026, regular meeting of the Metropolitan Council. **Motion carried**.

Public invitation

No public comments were made.

Consent business

Consent business adopted (Items 1-8)

1. **2026-81:** That the Metropolitan Council authorize its Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute a Joint Powers Agreement with the State of Minnesota, Department of Management and Budget for services provided by the State Employee Experience Unit.
2. **2026-82:** That the Metropolitan Council authorize its Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute a Joint Powers Agreement with the State of Minnesota, Department of Management and Budget for services provided by the State Office of Inclusion.
3. **2026-86:** That the Metropolitan Council adopt the attached Advisory Comments and Review Record and take the following actions:
    1. Authorize the City of Bayport to place its comprehensive plan amendment into effect.
    2. Revise the Thrive MSP 2040 and Imagine 2050 community designations for the amendment site from Rural Residential to Suburban as shown in Figure 2b in the Review Record.
    3. Find that the amendment does not change the City's forecasts.
    4. Advise the City to implement the advisory comments in the Review Record for Land Use.
4. **2026-92:** That the Metropolitan Council:
    1. Adopt the proposed size standard thresholds for a DBE-Neutral, two-tier small business program element outlined in the attached program document, currently $5,000,000 for Emerging Small Business Enterprises (ESBEs) and $16,000,000 for Small Business Enterprises (SBEs).
    2. Direct the Regional Administrator and Council staff to implement the attached Small Business program for appropriate federally funded projects.
5. **2026-94:** That the Metropolitan Council authorize its Regional Administrator to award and execute contract 25P335 with Meyer Contracting Inc. for the construction of the Orono Interceptor 7113 Improvements in an amount not to exceed $25,657,165.46.
6. **2026-96:** That the Council authorizes its Regional Administrator to negotiate and transfer ownership of public transit revenue and non-revenue fleet from the Metropolitan Council to SouthWest Transit (SWT) and Minnesota Valley Transit Authority (MVTA) with an original purchase value of $102.7 million with a current net book value of approximately $38.4 million.
7. **2026-99:** That the Metropolitan Council authorize its Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute a Joint Powers Agreement with Omnia Partners, contract 26I038, to allow the Council to utilize their contracts for cooperative purchasing of goods and services.
8. **2026-100:** That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute an amendment for contract 19P383A with Procellis Technology for electrical equipment maintenance that will add an additional $1,200,000 for a revised total not-to-exceed contract amount of $10,444,000.

It was moved by Toni Carter, seconded by Morales.

Motion carried.

Non-consent business – Reports of standing committees

Community Development

1. No reports.

Environment

1. No reports.

Management

1. No reports.

Transportation

1. **2026-74:** That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute a contract with Transit Team to provide Metro Mobility Demand South Zone service in an amount not to exceed $368,000,000.

   It was moved by Chamblis, seconded by Toni Carter.

   Motion carried.

2. **2026-91:** That the Metropolitan Council ("Council") authorize the Regional Administrator to execute Amendment #2 with Axon Enterprise Inc.

   It was moved by Chamblis, seconded by Morales.

   Motion carried.

3. **2026-105:** That the Metropolitan Council (Council) authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute lease agreement 26M055 with Sound Transit to lease a Northstar locomotive.

   It was moved by Chamblis, seconded by Jenkins.

   Bruce Cardon, Deputy Chief Operating Officer – Metro Transit, provided an overview the of the business item and answered questions regarding transportation of the Northstar equipment to Seattle.

   Motion carried.

Joint reports

1. No reports.

Other business

1. No reports.

Information

1. **Legislative Wrap-up** (Judd Schetnan, Hannah Pallmeyer)

   Judd Schetnan, Government Affairs Director and Hannah Pallmeyer, Government Affairs Manager provided a recap of the 2026 Minnesota State Legislative session.

   Pallmeyer gave a summary of the 2026 legislative session which started on February 17 and ended May 18 and described the dynamics of the state legislature in the House and Senate. Presenter shared information on transportation funding with forecast budget adjustments to Metro Mobility and Metro Move. For Community Development investments, state legislature approved general obligation bonds for regional parks and trails, funding from the Environmental and Natural Resources Trust Fund for metro regional parks land acquisition, and general obligation bonds for community tree planting grants. For Environmental Services, the bonding bill included funding for inflow and infiltration grants to metro-area cities.

   Schetnan gave an overview of initiatives that did not become law in the 2026 legislative session, which include transit consolidation bill, housing and zoning reform efforts, and Met Council policy proposals. Presenter shared items anticipated for the 2027 legislative session, which will begin January 12, 2027 and scheduled to end May 17, 2027. Year 2027 will have a new governor and new legislators and will be a "budget year" setting budget for upcoming fiscal years 2028-2029. There is potential for reintroduction of previous policy proposals that did not pass and the team will work with new administration on development of additional policy proposals. In addition, early 2027 will also have new appointment of Metropolitan Council members.

   Chair Hutcheson thanked and appreciated the efforts of the Government Affairs team over the years and for the work ahead. Council Member Morales recommended that staff look at Minnesota Statutes 118A.09 and see if there are opportunities for housing. Council Member Obisakin thanked presenters and the Government Affairs team.

2. **Green Line Extension Project Update** (Lesley Kandaras, Brian Funk, Jim Alexander, Chief Joseph Dotseth)

   Lesley Kandaras, General Manager of Metro Transit, laid out the Green Line Extension (GLE) project goals for 2026: to build ridership, increase employee and rider satisfaction, and to prepare for a flawless GLE launch. A flawless GLE Launch will include services that are open on time and running at committed levels, facilities and vehicles that are safe and clean, and a seamless customer experience.

   Jim Alexander, Project Director of the Green Line Extension, touched on some highlights of the GLE project workforce, such as 21.9% Disadvantaged Business Enterprise participation, which is well over the 15% project goal. He gave an overview of the GLE development progress, noting that civil construction is 99% complete and systems construction is 92% complete. Other notable progress updates were given about construction at the Hopkins Rail Facility and the restoration of the landscaping at Minneapolis' Kenilworth Corridor.

   Brian Funk, Chief Operating Officer at Metro Transit, summarized the timeline of testing that will be done in anticipation of the GLE launch, outlining the steps of systems integration testing, pre-revenue testing, and revenue service testing. Funk emphasized the vital importance of the staff that support these goals and shared a Green Line Extension staffing snapshot that addresses the roles that need to be filled

in order to meet project timeline goals.

Lesley Kandaras wrapped up the presentation by describing some of the ongoing partnerships that are positively impacting the GLE project: the Metro Transit Police Department, the Fire/Life/Safety Committee, and Community Outreach partners that provide regular updates to the community and stakeholders. Kandaras shared that GLE Presentations and Trail Pop-Ups will begin in June and continue through the summer and fall. Council Members congratulated staff on the progress of this project and expressed excitement about the future of the Green Line Extension.

3. **Safety & Security Action Plan, Q1 Update** (Lesley Kandaras, Chief Joseph Dotseth, Rachael Jones)

Lesley Kandaras, General Manager of Metro Transit opened the presentation with an overview of quarter 1 updates. Kandaras noted that the expansion and strengthening coordination between the layers of presence on transit has made a difference in improving transit safety. Metro Transit riders provided feedback that a strong official presence is key to providing a consistently safe and welcoming experience on transit.

Rachael Jones, Principal Researcher, provided key takeaway points from the customer satisfaction survey, which focused on customer satisfaction and transit operator experience. Overall, 66% of respondents are satisfied or very satisfied with their Metro Transit experience. 60% of light rail riders are more satisfied with their transit experience compared to a year ago. Results showed that 97% of respondents rode in the last two months, while 87% rode at least once a week. In terms of sense of safety, respondents generally feel safer on board a bus (64%) compared to waiting at a bus stop (49%) or train station (44%). Customer satisfaction with cleanliness and comfort continues to make gains for on vehicles and at bus stops and stations.

Jones continued with key highlights from the operator satisfaction survey, which had a 77% response rate. Overall, 74% of respondents enjoy doing their job. In terms of retention, 87% of respondents see themselves working at Metro Transit in the next year. 53% of respondents said they feel safe and secure at work, which is a 10% increase from 2024.

Chief Joe Dotseth concluded the presentation with Metro Transit Police Department (MTPD) staffing. MTPD has a 90% overall retention rate; first year retention rate is 95%. By quarter two of 2026, the Community Service Officer Program will be fully staffed. MTPD's Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) officers count is currently at 121 and the goal is to get FTE count up to 141 by quarter four 2026.

Chief Dotseth highlighted proactive patrolling data points. Compared to quarter 1 2025, MTPD saw increases in the following areas: 45% increase in proactive (officer-initiated) calls for service; 16% increase in crimes addressed due to proactive patrolling; and 210% increase in police onboards. In addition, Chief Dotseth walked through the list of top reported offenses and crime rates. Chief Dotseth ended the presentation with what MTPD is working on in 2026, which includes but not limited to the following: Green Line Extension planning, transit employee assault reduction, bus on-board team, law enforcement accreditation, and expansion of beats patrol program.

Reports

Chair Hutcheson thanked Council Members for their attendance and support at the 2026 State of the Region event on May 21, 2026. In addition, Chair Hutcheson thanked staff for their planning and logistical work leading up to and during the State of the Region event.

General Counsel thanked Darcy Erickson for providing legal legislative support during the Minnesota Legislature session.

Adjournment

Business completed; the meeting adjourned at 6:12 p.m.

Certification

I hereby certify that the foregoing narrative and exhibits constitute a true and accurate record of the Metropolitan Council meeting of May 27, 2026.

Council contact:

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