

Minutes

Committee of the Whole



Meeting date: March 18, 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

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 Vice Chair Chamblis called the regular meeting of the Metropolitan Council's Committee of the Whole to order at 4:01 p.m.

Dakota Land, Water, and People Acknowledgment

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

Agenda approved

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

Approval of minutes

It was moved by Jenkins, seconded by Morales to approve the minutes of the February 18, 2026, regular meeting of the Metropolitan Council's Committee of the Whole. **Motion carried.**

Proclamations: Transit Employee Appreciation Day

Council Member Barber presented a proclamation from the Governor's Office, followed by remarks from city of Saint Paul Mayor Kaohly Her, Metro Transit General Manager Lesley Kandaras, and Metropolitan Transportation Services Executive Director Charles Carlson.

Information

1. Transit Oriented Development Policy (Michael Krantz, Jon Commers, Thatcher Imboden, Yonah Freemark)

Michael Krantz, Senior Manager of Transit Oriented Development, greeted the Council and introduced Jon Commers, head of the consulting team for the TOD project. Commers presented on TOD Policy background, emphasizing the ways in which Transit Oriented Development is relevant to the Council's work: Transit Oriented Development increases transit ridership and accessibility, advances equity goals, and helps to mitigate climate change. The presenter emphasized the importance of a TOD Policy Update at this time to align with Imagine 2050 and Metro Transit Forward and to establish a clear direction moving forward.

Jon Commers provided an overview of the project scope and expressed the TOD team's intent to return to the Council in the coming months with policy recommendations for the Council's consideration. Thatcher Imboden, Senior Director, SRF Consulting Group, spoke briefly about real estate considerations while developing TOD Policy, such as affordable housing and displacement. Yonah Freemark, Principal Research Associate, Housing and Communities Division, Urban Institute, provided examples of his background that integrate fair housing, land use, and transportation.

The group discussed considerations that arise when facilitating development on Council-owned land and provided case studies that illustrate these challenges. The group invited discussion with the Council Members, who asked clarifying questions about the case studies and expressed support for the advancement of Transit Oriented Development.

2. American Indian Advisory Council Annual Report (Angela Torres, Allison Waukau)

Council Member Lilligren made a remark before the presentation to thank the staff and the presenters and was excited to hear about the progress of the American Indian Advisory Council delivering the commitments to the community.

Angela Torres, Senior Manager of Local Planning Assistance, and Allison Waukau, Tribal Liaison & Native Relations Coordinator presented an annual update of the American Indian Advisory Council. Presenters shared the annual report informing of the progress through 2025 and plans for 2026. The American Indian Advisory Council currently has 9 members and serves the Met Council to ensure implementation of commitments and provide guidance on various Council projects. There are five areas of recommendations including Organizational and Operational Commitments, Regional Parks and Trails Policy, Water Policy, Transportation Policy, and Housing Policy.

Vice Chair Chamblis expressed appreciation and excitement to hear about the report and highlighted the work regarding the Franklin Avenue Station redesign.

Regional Administrator O'Connor attended the Advisory Council in December and confirms the progress and plan is consistent and align with the December discussion. Regional Administrator highlighted the topic of foraging and the challenges the community faces with differing foraging rules across the region.

Presenters closed the presentation with mention that the American Indian Advisory Council is a national model. The team will be attending the National Planning Conference in April to share the model with planning agencies across the nation.



Adjournment

Business completed; the meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Certification

I hereby certify that the foregoing narrative and exhibits constitute a true and accurate record of the Metropolitan Council's Committee of the Whole meeting of March 18, 2026.

Council contact:

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