

Minutes

Committee of the Whole



Meeting date: February 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 Pacheco.

Agenda approved

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

Approval of minutes

It was moved by Morales, seconded by Obisakin to approve the minutes of the January 21, 2026 Metropolitan Council's Committee of the Whole minutes. **Motion carried.**

Information

1. High-subsidy Transit Routes Analysis (Charles Carlson, Executive Director, Metropolitan Transportation Services)

Charles Carlson, Executive Director of Metropolitan Transportation Services, presented an overview of the study background, the role of transit in a thriving region, and walked through the high-subsidy transit routes analysis report. Carlson highlighted high-subsidy thresholds by tiers and strategies to reduce per-passenger subsidies. Carlson shared number of high-subsidy routes by tiers by service providers. In addition, Carlson shared the costs of Metro Mobility services for rides that are near high-subsidy routes.

Council Members asked about cost savings, next steps and expectations from the Legislature regarding the report. Carlson noted that over 90% of routes are not a high-subsidy route and the Council's role is to ensure access to transit. The Council uses data to determine what services meet or not meet guidelines.

Council Members asked how the Council compares to other peer regions in terms of transit subsidy. Staff noted that the Council does well compared to other peer regions. In addition, Minnesota Department of Transportation evaluated Metro Mobility services and MnDOT found that the Council provides one of the lowest cost services. Staff shared that Legislature appreciated having the report a month earlier than planned. Staff concluded that the Council is not sure what the Legislature will do with this report.

Adjournment

Business completed; the meeting adjourned at 4:43 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 February 18, 2026.

Council contact:

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