METRO Blue Line Extension
Special Meeting of the Project Decisions Board
Meeting Minutes

Date & Time	July 23, 2026 9:00 am - 10:30 AM
Location	6465 Wayzata Blvd, Ste 600, St. Louis Park, MN 55426 North Conference Room
PDB Members: Project Staff:	Robin Hutcheson, Irene Fernando, Reva Chamblis, Marion Greene, Anjuli Cameron Lisa Cerney, Robin Hennessy, Alicia Vap, Dan Soler, Nick Thompson, Luana Steele, Peter Hanf

<u>Action Required</u>

1. **Call To Order**
Chair Robin Hutcheson, Metropolitan Council, Chair of METRO Blue Line Extension (BLE) Project Decisions Board (PDB), called the Special Meeting of the PDB meeting to order at 9:04am and welcomed members to the meeting. VPDB Chair Hutcheson invited members to introduce themselves.

2. **Minutes from February 18, 2026, Meeting** — Approved 7/23/2026
Chair Robin Hutcheson, Metropolitan Council, Chair of METRO Blue Line Extension (BLE) Project Decisions Board (PDB), asked for a motion to approve the February 18, 2026, Meeting Minutes. Commissioner Jeffrey Lunde Hennepin County District 1, motioned to approve the minutes, seconded by Metropolitan Council Member (CM) Reva Chamblis.

   Motion carried.

   The minutes were officially approved.

3. **Discussion of Funding Gap Solutions** — Discussion
Chair Hutcheson stated that staff will give an overview of the proposed resolutions today and how they would impact the funding gap.
Alicia Vap, Blue Line Extension Project Director, stated that on July 8 a funding gap was shared for the project that was $474M. Since then, the project team has been working diligently to identify potential scope reduction items that would not:
    - Change the purpose and need for the project

- Change the project termini
- Require Municipal Consent by Cities and Hennepin County (i.e, no elimination of stations)
- Not negatively impacting Metro Transit's ability to operate the system (i.e., no elimination of the Operations & Maintenance Facility in Brooklyn Park)
- Not impact NEPA (Defined in the environmental documentation that has been through the FTA process).

Ms. Vap shared a summary of the $190M in proposed project savings for each of the four scope reduction items.

- Oak Grove Parkway Park & Ride reductions from a 250 structured parking ramp to 100 surface parking spaces and adding a small building for MT operations, savings of $15.5M
- 63rd Avenue Station Pedestrian Bridge elimination from the existing 63rd Park & Ride to the station, savings of $19.1M
- Finance Charges elimination to reflect the Council no longer has a need to borrow to finance the federal funds, savings of $75M
- Reduction of the Systems Construction costs to reflect updated estimates from 60% to 90% design, savings of $80M.

Chair Hutcheson stated there is a desire to discuss the funding solutions. Chair Hutcheson started by recognizing the work the teams have been doing, working to make significant progress in filling this gap. She added that the team has identified $56M that can be added from the Green Line Extension as that project reaches close out.

Vice-Chair Commissioner Irene Fernando expressed concern that many recent CMC meetings have not been held, and the PDB has not met since February of this year. Vice-Chair Fernando wanted to restate that Hennepin County remains committed to this project.

Chair Hutcheson noted an August CMC it is being scheduled.

Lisa Cerney, Hennepin County Assistant County Administrator, Public Works, asked Chair Hutcheson to talk about options for solving the funding gap.

Nick Thompson, Metro Transit Deputy GM Capital Programs, stated Council has analyzed Light Rail Vehicle (LRVs) totals as both purchasing fewer vehicles as a cost reduction or moving the purchase of vehicles outside of the project budget. FTA will review project elements necessary for a project, and therefore, vehicles must be part of the project budget. In addition, the team has reviewed frequently, reviewed peer agencies across the country, and determined a need of 35 LRVs.

Mr. Thompson further noted that staff also reviewed contingency. The project contingency has been finalized through the FTA risk process. FTA has not granted reductions in contingency on other projects.

Commissioner Greene asked about daily need of trains versus special event needs, and Chair Hutcheson asked the team to review vehicles relating to contingency.

Ms. Cerney asked to summarize next steps.

Chair Hutcheson stated she will ask the staff to look at the relationship between vehicles and contingency.

Ms. Cerney asked if MnDOT funding was a possibility. Chair Hutcheson noted she will discuss with MnDOT.

Commissioner Fernando asked about other funding sources, including revenue sources. Chair Hutcheson indicated that Council now covers LRT operating costs.

Commissioner Lunde referred to the Council's 2050 plan referencing $2.3B of unallocated money.

Chair Hutcheson noted she will look into Commissioner Lunde's reference to the 2050 plan.

Commissioner Greene brought up the OLA (Office of Legislative Auditors) report the concerns that the Met Council doesn't have funding in the Green Line Extension.

Chair closed discussion by noting that the Met Council wants to submit the application for federal funding, and thanked members for their comments.

4. **Resolution 26-PDB-015 – Modify Oak Grove Park & Ride**
Chair Robin Hutcheson called for a motion to approve Resolution 26-PDB-015. Commissioner Lunde motioned to approve, seconded by Council Member Chamblis. The resolution was approved.

Approved 7/23/2026

5. **Resolution 26-PDB-016 - Remove the 63rd Avenue Station Pedestrian Bridge**
Chair Robin Hutcheson called for a motion to approve Resolution 26-PDB-016. Commissioner Lunde motioned to approve, seconded by Council Member Chamblis. The resolution was approved.

Approved 7/23/2026

6. **Resolution 26-PDB-017 – Reduce Finance charges** Approved 7/23/2026
Chair Robin Hutcheson called for a motion to approve Resolution 26-PDB-017. Commissioner Lunde motioned to approve, seconded by Council Member Chamblis. The resolution was approved.

7. **Resolution 26-PDB-018 – Reduce Budget Estimate for Systems Construction** Approved 7/23/2026
Chair Robin Hutcheson called for a motion to approve Resolution 26-PDB-0188. Commissioner Lunde motioned to approve, seconded by Council Member Chamblis. The resolution was approved.

8. **Next Meeting: August 19, 2026**
Chair Hutcheson adjourned the meeting at 10:04 AM.

Meeting Materials Provided:
Special Meeting Agenda, July 23, 2026
February 18, 2025, PDB Minutes
Resolution 26-PDB-015 – Modify Oak Grove Park & Ride
Resolution 26-PDB-016 – Remove the 63rd Avenue Station Pedestrian Bridge
Resolution 26-PDB-017 – Reduce Finance charges
Resolution 26-PDB-018 – Reduce Budget Estimate for Systems Construction

Respectfully submitted, Luana Steele, Blue Line Ext. Recording Secretary