

Minutes

Metropolitan Council



Meeting date: July 8, 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 Chair Hutcheson called the regular meeting of the Metropolitan Council to order at 4:01p.m.

Dakota Land, Water, and People Acknowledgment

The Dakota Land, Water, and People Acknowledgment was read by Council Member Dr. Tyronne Carter.

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 June 24, 2026, regular meeting of the Metropolitan Council. **Motion carried.**

Public invitation

Francine Fieldman, of Phalen Village Co-op, addressed the Council regarding residents' concerns about the Bronze Line project.

Jan Allen, of Phalen Village Co-op, addressed the Council regarding the Bronze Line and asked the Council to consider postponing or delaying the project.

Sharon Markham, of Phalen Village Co-op, addressed the Council regarding the close proximity of the Bronze Line bridge to their building, and asked the project team to consider other alternatives.

Elaina Portlance, of Saint Paul and ATU Local 1005 member, addressed the Council for an equitable contract for ATU members.

Paul Kirk-Davidoff, of Minneapolis and UFCW Local 663 representative, addressed the Council in support of fellow union workers for a just and equitable contract.

Andrew Boardman, of ATU Local 1005, addressed the Council in support of ATU members and appreciated the Council for letting ATU members speak.

David Stiggers, president of ATU Local 1005, addressed the Council to thank them for their support during Operation Metro Surge; encouraged the Council to be ahead of artificial intelligence (AI); and keep safety as a continued priority for ATU members.

Robert Lewis, an educator, addressed the Council to advocate for a fair contract for ATU.

Aminah Sheikh, of Minneapolis and Democratic Socialists of America member, addressed the Council in support of ATU members.

Consent business

Consent business adopted (Items 1-5)

1. **2026-93:** That the Metropolitan Council authorizes the Regional Administrator to enter into and execute the amended Agency Transit Fare Contract No. 20I026 with Hennepin County Human Services and Public Health Department to provide transit fares to their clients.
2. **2026-109:** That the Metropolitan Council authorizes to bind coverage of its property insurance for the 2026-27 policy year effective August 1, 2026 - August 1, 2027 in an amount not to exceed \$5,000,000.
3. **2026-113:** That the Metropolitan Council authorizes the Regional Administrator to reject all bids for contract 25P196 for the construction of the St. Paul OMF LRV Storage Barn Project.
4. **2026-116:** That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to award and execute contract 26P026 with Sunoco, LLC., to supply gasoline for Metro Mobility in the amount not to exceed \$53,444,020.78.
5. **2026-117:** That Metropolitan Council approve releasing the draft 2050 TPP Amendment 3, updating the Bronze Line (formerly Purple Line) bus rapid transit project and adding the J and K Line bus rapid transit projects, for public review and comment.

It was moved by Morales, seconded by Jenkins. Council Member Barber recused from voting on the Consent Agenda.

Motion carried.

Non-consent business – Reports of standing committees

Community Development

1. **2026-110:** That the Metropolitan Council accept the Regional Parks and Trails System state fiscal year 2027 operation and maintenance report, as shown in Table 1.

Table 1. State Fiscal Year 2027 O&M Distribution

Agency	Reported Actual 2025 O&M Expenses	Estimated Distribution Amount
Anoka County	\$9,288,528	\$956,335
Bloomington Parks	\$621,661	\$107,358
Carver County	\$2,687,077	\$280,584
Dakota County	\$11,659,649	\$819,300
Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board (MPRB)	\$30,705,425	\$2,884,283
Ramsey County	\$9,785,242	\$1,087,291
Saint Paul Parks	\$27,485,469	\$1,531,349
Scott County	\$2,689,556	\$222,630
Three Rivers Park District (TRPD) - Hennepin & Scott	\$50,685,230	\$3,310,456
Washington County	\$6,336,510	\$540,414
TOTAL	\$151,944,347	\$11,740,000

It was moved by Lilligren, seconded by Wulff. Council Member Barber recused from voting on business item 2026-110.

Council Member Jenkins asked if funding is keeping up with operation and maintenance costs. Council Member Wulff noted that funding is not keeping up at the legislative level. Council Members asked for more data and Chair Hutcheson directed Community Development Executive Director Barajas and staff to provide data as a follow-up action.

Motion carried.

Environment

1. No reports.

Management

1. No reports.

Transportation

1. **2026-115:** That the Metropolitan Council approve Amendment #2 to the D Line Station Plan, aligning future D Line platform locations at Chicago & 38th Street with the layout approved by the City of Minneapolis.

It was moved by Chamblis, seconded by Lilligren.

Motion carried.

Joint Reports

1. No reports.

Other Business

1. No reports.

Information

1. METRO Bronze Line Project Update (Craig Lamothe)

Craig Lamothe, Bronze Line Project Manager, gave a presentation on the METRO Bronze Line Project Update. Lamothe shared a summary of the project metrics and highlights and discussed shared project funding responsibilities between Ramsey County and the Met Council. Lamothe provided information on the implementation of the pre-construction phase project delivery approach shared by Ramsey County, MnDOT, Met Council, and consultants. Lamothe discussed priority technical issues to resolve such as the bridge locations, partnering with coordination of the Daylighting Phalen Creek Project, and coordination with shared stations and roadway projects. Lamothe closed with upcoming Council actions for the Bronze Line project.

Council Member Cederberg commented that District 11 residents are excited for the project and thanked the team for their engagement work. Council Member Lindstrom highlighted the daylighting project and asked a clarifying question about the Bronze Line near the daylighting project. Council Member Toni Carter thanked the team for the update and asked a question about the work and engagement with the bridges. Council Member Obisakin and Council Member Wulff asked clarifying questions on the project alignment with the bridges. Council Member Wulff remarked on traffic noise and asked a question regarding the types of buses that will be utilized on the bridge.

Council Member Lilligren mentioned local involvement and inquired about Disadvantaged Business Enterprise program and Underutilized Business program goals and the intersection with Office of Civil Rights and Small Business Programs. Council Member Chamblis expressed excitement about Ramsey County, the Met Council, and MnDOT working together and seeing challenges and opportunities for other projects. The Regional Administrator commented on the approach of the Bronze Line Project team and expressed pride for their collaborative work with Ramsey County. Council Member Wulff remarked on how great it is to not have to go through the federal process for funding on this project.

Regional Administrator thanked staff and Ramsey County for working together through challenges and being flexible to make the project work. Chair Hutcheson thanked the team for the report on the progress of the project.

Reports

Chair Hutcheson shared that there was a Blue Line Extension project status briefing with stakeholders earlier in the day at Metro Transit North Loop Bus Garage.

Council Member Chamblis shared that Metro Transit received the Gold Award in the American Public Transportation Association's (APTA) Safe, Effective, and Clean category for Light Rail/Streetcar category. Council Member Chamblis attended the APTA Rail Conference in Baltimore, MD to accept the award with Metro Transit leadership.

Adjournment

Business completed; the meeting adjourned at 5:22 p.m.

Certification

I hereby certify that the foregoing narrative and exhibits constitute a true and accurate



record of the Metropolitan Council meeting of July 8, 2026.

Council contact:

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Metropolitan Council