

Minutes

Transportation Committee



Meeting date: August 25, 2025

Time: 4:00 PM

Location: Heywood Chambers

Members present:

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chair, Deb Barber, D4 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tyronne Carter, District 3 | <input type="checkbox"/> Anjuli Cameron, District 8 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Vice Chair, Reva Chamblis, D2 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> John Pacheco Jr., District 5 | <input type="checkbox"/> Toni Carter, District 14 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Judy Johnson, District 1 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yassin Osman, District 7 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Victor Obisakin, District 15 |
| | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> = 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, Committee Chair Barber called the regular meeting of the Transportation Committee to order at 4:01 p.m.

Agenda approved

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

Approval of minutes

It was moved by Obisakin, seconded by Osman to approve the minutes of the August 11, 2025, regular meeting of the Transportation Committee. **Motion carried.**

Employee recognition – Metro Transit

1. Metro Transit General Manager

Lesley Kandaras introduced Bus Maintenance Director Abel Mumbi who presented awards to Manager Dan Kraemer, Assistant Manager Timothy Boden, Technician and JLMSC co-chair Rafael Valle, ATU Board member Kurt Anderson, ATU Recording Secretary/Assistant Business Agent Andrew Boardman, Senior Technical Trainer Travis Ahlquist, Senior Technical Trainer Don Wolf, Technical Trainer Jasen Cook and Technical Trainer Richard Petterson; Bus Transportation Assistant Director Donathan Brown who presented awards to Bus Operator Jonathan Dumenya, Bus Operator Nat Thomas, Bus Operator Patrick Schultz and Bus Operator Anton Pierson.

Reports

1. Metropolitan Transportation Services Executive Director

Charles Carlson reported that staff will provide an update at the next meeting in relation to the current public comment period for the Transportation Policy Plan amendments.

2. Metro Transit General Manager

Lesley Kandaras reported on the State Fair operations and upcoming blue line closure.

3. Transportation Advisory Board (TAB)

Peter Dugan reported on the August TAB meeting.

4. Joint Labor Management Safety Committee (JLMSC)

JLMSC Co-chairs, Metro Transit Bus Maintenance Director Abel Mumbi and Technician Rafael Valle provided an update on the committee's current work which includes piloting new operator barriers, agency safety plans and best practices as it relates to self-reporting.

Consent business

Consent business adopted

1. **2025-205:** Corridors of Commerce Local Screening and Recommendation: City of Anoka's Highway 47/BNSF Railway Crossing Project

Proposed Action: That the Metropolitan Council recommend the City of Anoka's Highway 47/BNSF Railway Crossing Project to MnDOT for scoring consideration in the Corridors of Commerce Readiness Advancement Solicitation.

It was moved by Chamblis, seconded by Obisakin.

Motion carried.

Non-consent business

1. **2025-137:** METRO Blue Line Extension – Adequacy Determination

It was moved by Osman, seconded by Obiskain, that the Metropolitan Council (Council) determine the adequacy of the Supplemental Final Environmental Impact Statement (SFEIS) for the METRO Blue Line Extension (Project) and authorize its Chair to sign the SFEIS Adequacy Determination on behalf of the Council.

Metro Transit Senior Project Manager Kelcie Young presented this item. Chair Barber asked for more information in relation to permits. Young answered that the project has a whole set of permits that will be needed (some environmental, some with partner agencies) but the permits that the project team needs to acquire would want to be in place by the time construction bids are issued. Young added that some of the project's next steps would require future Council action. Johnson asked about funding. Young stated that the actions to formalize the project budget are still in the future. Osman asked where the project is at with the FTA. Metro Transit Blue Line Extension Project Director Alicia Vap stated project staff are continuing to work with the FTA, submitting information last week for a pre rating package and currently compiling information so FTA can conduct a risk assessment this fall, which will help finalize the schedule and budget.

Motion carried.

2. **2025-170 JT:** Transit Funding Allocation Policy

It was moved by Carter, Tyronne, seconded by Osman, that the Metropolitan Council (1) adopt the attached FM 12-3 transit funding allocation policy and (2) direct staff to develop procedures to implement this policy.

Metropolitan Transportation Services Executive Director Charles Carlson presented this item. Council members discussed what the Sales Tax was replacing including transit way operating



costs and capital maintenance, the certainty this provides for suburban transit providers in regard to budgets and the response letters from STA. Johnson stated communication from Maple Grove was received and a meeting will be forthcoming. Chair Barber thanked staff for their work.

Motion carried.

3. **2025-194 JT:** 2025 Budget Amendment – 3rd Quarter

It was moved by Johnson, seconded by Chamblis, that the Metropolitan Council authorize the 2025 Unified Budget amendment as indicated, and in accordance with, the attached tables.

Metro Transit Budget Program Manager Ruth Crowe-Lane and Metropolitan Transportation Services Finance Director Heather Giesel presented this item. There were no questions or comments from Council members.

Motion carried.

4. **2025-201:** METRO E Line – Amendment 1 to Engineering and Construction Administration Contract 21P364

It was moved by Osman, seconded by Obisakin, that the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute an amendment for contract 21P364 with HDR, Inc. that will increase the contract value by \$1,292,869 for a total contract not to exceed amount of \$12,034,714.

Metro Transit BRT Projects Manager Adam Smith presented this item. There were no questions or comments from Council members.

Motion carried. Hearing no objection, Chair Barber stated this item could proceed as consent to Council.

5. **2025-207:** METRO Green Line Extension Site Maintenance, Contract 25P074

It was moved by Osman, seconded by Obisakin, that the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to award and execute contract 25P074 with Landsclupt Inc. to provide site maintenance services in an amount not to exceed \$687,284.

Metro Transit Deputy Project Director Jim Alexander presented this item. There were no questions or comments from Council members.

Motion carried. Hearing no objection, Chair Barber stated this item could proceed as consent to Council.

6. **2025-216:** 2026-2029 Transportation Improvement Program

It was moved by Carter, Tyrone, seconded by Osman, that the Metropolitan Council:

1. Adopt the 2026-2029 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area.
2. Certify that the Twin Cities Metropolitan Planning Process is addressing major issues facing the metropolitan planning area and is being carried on in conformance with all applicable federal requirements of:
 - a. 23 U.S.C. 134 and 49 U.S.C. 5303, and this subpart;
 - b. Sections 174 and 176 (c) and (d) of the Clean Air Act as amended (42 U.S.C. 7504, 7506 (c) and (d)) and 40 CFR part 93;
 - c. Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended (42 USC 2000d-1) and 49 CFR part 21;
 - d. 49 USC 5332, prohibiting discrimination on the basis of race, color, creed, national origin, sex, or age in employment or business opportunity;
 - e. Section 1101(b) of Fixing America’s Surface Transportation (FAST) Act (Pub L.



114-357) and 49 CFR Part 26 regarding the involvement of disadvantaged business enterprises in US DOT funded projects;

f. 23 CFR part 230, regarding the implementation of an equal employment opportunity program on Federal and Federal-aid highway construction contracts;

g. The provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.) and 49 CFR Parts 27, 37, and 38;

h. The Older Americans Act, as amended (42 U.S.C 6101), prohibiting discrimination on the basis of age in programs or activities receiving Federal financial assistance;

i. Section 324 of title 23, U.S.C regarding the prohibition of discrimination based on gender; and;

j. Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 794) and 49 CFR 27 regarding discrimination against individuals with disabilities

3. Certify the TIP conforms to the provisions of 49 CFR part 20 regarding lobbying restrictions on influencing certain federal activities.

4. Find that the TIP is consistent with the Transportation Policy Plan, which is in conformance with applicable federal transportation and air quality regulations.

5. Find that the TIP meets all applicable executive orders and federal requirements.

6. Find that the TAB provided adequate opportunity for involvement from the public, agency and transit operators through its regular process and public comment period.

7. Transmit the 2026-2029 TIP along with public comments to the Minnesota Department of Transportation.

Metropolitan Transportation Services Planning Analyst Joe Barbeau presented this item. There were no questions or comments from Council members.

Motion carried.

Information

1. Workforce Update

Metro Transit Assistant General Manager Administration and External Affairs Alyssa Haugen, Metropolitan Council Chief Human Resource Officer Cassandra Tabor and Metro Transit Senior Data Scientist Shanta Hejmadi presented this item. Council members discussed workforce targets, resources given to applicants who have been turned down for a specific job, and the impact of adding all the additional jobs into the community.

2. 2025 Second Quarter Ridership Update

Metropolitan Transportation Services Contracted Services Manager John Harper and Metro Transit Principal Data Scientist Joey Reid presented this item. Council members discussed the decline in ridership, return to office mandates and visible presence on the system.

Adjournment

Business completed; the meeting adjourned at 6:32 p.m.

Certification

I hereby certify that the foregoing narrative and exhibits constitute a true and accurate record of the Transportation Committee meeting of August 25, 2025.

Council contact:

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Metropolitan Council