METRO Blue Line Extension
Project Decision Board
Meeting Minutes

Date & Time	February 18, 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, Bojan Misic, Luana Steele, Jer Yang

	Action Required
1. Call To Order Commissioner Irene Fernando, Hennepin County, and the Vice-Chair of METRO Blue Line Extension (BLE) Project Decision Board (PDB), called the PDB meeting to order at 9:06am and welcomed members to the meeting. Vice-Chair Fernando invited members to introduce themselves.	
2. Minutes from December 2, 2025, Meeting Vice-Chair Fernando asked for a motion to approve the December 2, 2025, Meeting Minutes. Commissioner Marion Greene, Hennepin County Regional Rail Authority (HCRRA), motioned to approve the minutes, seconded by Metropolitan Council Member (CM) Reva Chamblis. **Motion carried** The minutes were officially approved.	Approved 2/18/2026
3. Resolution 26-PDB-012 – Appoint PDB Chair Vice Chair Fernando asked for a motion to appoint Metropolitan Council Chair Robin Hutcheson as the PDB Chair. Vice-Chair Fernando motioned to appoint Metropolitan Council Chair Robin Hutcheson as the PDB Chair, seconded by CM Chamblis. **Motion Carried**	Approved 2/18/2026
4. Resolution 26-PDB-013 – Northern States Power Master Utility Agreement Bojan Misic, Hennepin County, provided background on Resolution 26-PDB-013 – Northern States Power (NSP) Master Utility Agreement, noting that	Approved 2/18/2026

private utilities have compensable rights in specific locations. One of these is Northern States Power (also known as Xcel Energy).

Mr. Misic noted that there are four compensable locations along the BLE alignment requiring Xcel to relocate in areas which NSP holds easements or has certain rights, such as in interstate right of way. Mr. Misic reviewed the locations of each area, noting that one is in Brooklyn Park and three are in Minneapolis.

Mr. Misic noted the rationale for approving this Master Utility Agreement with NSP allowing for reimbursement of the cost to relocate NSP private utilities in conflict with the Blue Line Extension Project, in an amount not to exceed $18,600,000.

Metropolitan Council Member Anjuli Cameron, asked for clarification on the not-to-exceed value and what measures are in place to ensure Xcel would not request additional funds later to cover the work. Mr. Misic responded that BLE Project staff are closely coordinating with Xcel throughout this process.

Alicia Vap, Project Director, added that the agreement is structured as a not-to-exceed amount, indicating that both parties have agreed to the defined cost limit.

PDB members motioned to approve the Resolution. **Motion carried.**

Approved 2/18/2026

5. **Resolution 26-PDB-014 – Qwest Master Utility Agreement**
   Mr. Misic explained that there are three locations along the BLE alignment where Qwest (also known as CenturyLink) has underground utilities that require relocation in either an easement or interstate right of way. He reviewed the locations where Qwest holds easements for these underground utilities.

   Mr. Misic noted the rationale for approving this Master Utility Agreement with Qwest Corporation, d/b/a CenturyLink QC allowing for reimbursement of the cost to relocate utilities in conflict with the METRO Blue Line Extension in an amount not to exceed $2,356,016

   Vice-Chair Fernando inquired about the cost of this agreement compared to the NSP agreement and asked why it is significantly lower, despite involving similar work. Mr. Misic explained that the cost is driven largely by materials, noting that this agreement involves fiber optic lines, which are much smaller and less costly than the facilities included in the NSP agreement.

Chair Hutcheson asked whether there is any overlap between Resolutions 26-PDB-013 and 26-PDB-014, and whether the city has specific requirements for excavation work. Mr. Misic responded that the goal is to coordinate both utility relocation work to be completed simultaneously to reduce construction impacts.

PDB members motioned to approve the Resolution. **Motion carried.**

6. **Next Meeting: March 18, 2026**
   Chair Hutcheson adjourned the meeting at 9:30am.

<u>Meeting Materials Provided:</u>
Meeting Agenda, February 18, 2026
December 2, 2025, PDB Minutes
Resolution 25-PDB-012 – Appoint PDB Chair
Resolution 25-PDB-013 – Northern States Power Master Utility Agreement
Resolution 25-PDB-014 – Qwest Master Utility Agreement

Respectfully submitted, Jer Yang, Blue Line Ext. Recording Secretary