

Minutes

Metropolitan Council



Meeting date: May 13, 2026

Time: 4:00 PM

Location: 390 Robert Street

Members present:

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chair, Robin Hutcheson | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Robert Lilligren, District 6 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mark Jenkins, District 12 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Judy Johnson, District 1 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yassin Osman, District 7 | <input type="checkbox"/> Chai Lee, District 13 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reva Chamblis, District 2 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anjuli Cameron, District 8 | <input type="checkbox"/> Toni Carter, District 14 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tyronne Carter, District 3 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Diego Morales, District 9 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Victor Obisakin, District 15 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Deb Barber, District 4 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Peter Lindstrom, District 10 | <input type="checkbox"/> Wendy Wulff, District 16 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> John Pacheco Jr., District 5 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gail Cederberg, District 11 | <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, Council Chair Hutcheson called the regular meeting of the Metropolitan Council to order at 4:03p.m.

Dakota Land, Water, and People Acknowledgment

The Dakota Land, Water, and People Acknowledgment was read by Council Member Johnson.

Agenda approved

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

Approval of minutes

It was moved by Morales, seconded by Osman, to approve the minutes of the April 22, 2026, regular meeting of the Metropolitan Council. **Motion carried.**

Public invitation

Andrew Boardman of ATU Local 1005 addressed the Council regarding Metro Transit employee benefits.

Consent business

Consent business adopted (Items 1-5)

1. **2026-75:** That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute contract 26P087 with Pellera Technologies d.b.a. Paragon Development Systems to renew VMware Cloud licensing and support services for an amount not to exceed \$2,600,000.
2. **2026-76:** That the Metropolitan Council authorizes the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute master contracts 25P162 A-C for Crow River Water Resource Recovery Facility (WRRF) and other design and construction phase support with not to exceed amounts as follows:

<u>Organization</u>	<u>Contract Number</u>	<u>Contract Amount</u>
HDR	25P162 A	\$16,000,000
Hazen and Sawyer	25P162 B	\$16,000,000
HR Green	25P162 C	\$16,000,000

3. **2026-80:** That the Metropolitan Council authorizes the Regional Administrator to award and execute a contract 25P283 with Premier Electric Corporation to provide electrical maintenance services for MCES facilities in an amount not to exceed \$15,000,000.
4. **2026-83:** That the Metropolitan Council ratify a modified Emergency Declaration for repairs to Interceptor 1-MH-401C Lilydale Siphon in Saint Paul to add \$3,000,000 for additional emergency work for a total not to exceed amount of \$10,000,000.
5. **2026-95 SW:** That the Environment Committee approve Business Item 2026-95 SW and recommend that the Metropolitan Council authorizes its Regional Administrator to award and execute the 2026-2028 Water Efficiency Grant Program awards up to the recommended award amount in Attachment A to the total amount of \$1,399,000. And that any remaining or returned funds will be redistributed to participating municipalities at staff's discretion.

It was moved by Jenkins, seconded by Obisakin.

Motion carried.

Non-consent business – Reports of standing committees

Community Development

1. No reports.

Environment

1. No reports.

Management

1. No reports.



Transportation

1. No reports.

Joint Reports

1. No reports.

Other Business

1. 2026-90:

1. That the Metropolitan Council approve and make effective at the close of the May 13, 2026, Metropolitan Council meeting Anjuli Cameron as Vice Chair of the Council, pursuant to Council Bylaws, Article I.
2. That the Metropolitan Council approve and make effective on Thursday, May 14, 2026, the following standing and advisory committee assignments recommended by the Chair, pursuant to Council Bylaws, Article III.
 - a. Management Committee: Morales (Chair)
 - b. Transportation Committee: Chamblis (Chair), Obisakin (Vice Chair)
 - c. Audit: Jenkins (Vice Chair)
 - d. Transportation Advisory Board: Chamblis, Obisakin (Alternate)

It was moved by Johnson, seconded by Lilligren.

Council Members Johnson and Lilligren thanked their Council Member colleagues for their leadership and support in building the next generation of Council leadership.

Motion carried.

2. **2026-97:** That the Metropolitan Council appoint Lisa Freese to serve as commissioner for District F on the Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission. This appointment is being made mid-term and will run through January 2029, or until replaced.

It was moved by Lilligren, seconded by Jenkins.

Council Member Cederberg thanked Council Members Jenkins and Wulff for sitting on the interview committee.

Motion carried.

Information

1. **Regional Transit Governance & Finance** (Charles Carlson, Executive Director – Metropolitan Transportation Services)

Regional Administrator remarked that Charles Carlson, Executive Director of Metropolitan Transportation Services, shared the presentation with state legislators at the Capitol and will also present it to the Council to share the same information.

Carlson noted this was presented to Minnesota House Transportation Finance and Policy Committee on April 15, 2026. Carlson recapped the evolution of regional



transit governance over 150 years of history. Regional transit funding evolved similarly over the years, and the presenter provided an overview of funding approaches throughout the years.

Carlson highlighted the Council's transit roles and responsibilities in delivering public transportation through the region by two divisions, Metro Transit and Metropolitan Transportation Services. Carlson discussed the partnering roles with metropolitan counties, MnDOT, and suburban transit providers within the transit system. Presenter shared data for 2025 transit ridership and services hours with an additional report showing comparison to 2019 data. Carlson provided details on funding allocation policy updates that were adopted by the Council in September 2025, information on sales and use tax allocation, sales tax operating cost relief, and an additional report showing local option sales tax information.

Council Member Lindstrom asked about top projects or initiatives that would not have happened without the sales tax funding. Council Member Johnson commented about Council's bond rating due to financial stability which would not have happened without 2023 legislation. Chair Hutcheson noted about hearing of the benefits and bringing positive examples for meetings within communities. Council Member Chamblis remarked about the opportunities for communities and the presentation shows Council can work together at the state, county and federal levels to provide better services, and plan and partner with agencies to build up ridership and services. Council Member Johnson highlighted Council's transit organization as unique across the country and its impact across the region and state.

Chair Hutcheson added there is currently a conference in the city with transportation professionals in attendance, many from transit agencies, who are present to tour and learn about the region's transit system. Regional Administrator closed with acknowledging the stability gained from 2023 legislation and that the next step is to move beyond sustainability into a deeper level of prosperity and to keep pushing for future visions.

2. **Metropolitan Council Small Business Opportunities Spend Plan** (Ashanti Payne, Director; Thomas Mebrahtu, Manager – Office of Civil Rights and Small Business Programs)

Ashanti Payne, Director of Office of Civil Rights and Small Business Programs, opened the presentation by iterating the purpose of the Small Business Opportunities Spend Plan: to expand opportunities, eliminate disparities, plan intentionally, and to promote shared accountability. Payne emphasized that the program has been a collaborative effort that has taken shape with the help of cross-divisional partners.

Thomas Mebrahtu, Manager of the Office of Civil Rights and Small Business Programs, continued the presentation by reviewing some of the key takeaways that have been learned through the Small Business Opportunities Spend Plan process thus far. Mebrahtu noted the importance of informational sessions to increase transparency. Mebrahtu informed the council that there are projected increases in small business spending across all divisions from 2026 to 2027, demonstrating commitment to this plan across the organization.

Payne concluded the presentation by outlining future steps that will foster accountability, such as quarterly touchpoints with the Office of Civil Rights and Small Business Programs as well as Quarterly Metropolitan Council Underutilized



Business (MCUB) reporting. Payne referenced the dashboard that is being used within the Metropolitan Council to track progress toward these spending goals. Council Members asked questions about plans to incorporate underserved businesses and MCUBs into the spend plan and expressed appreciation for the impact that the Small Business Opportunities Spend Plan will have on businesses in the region.

Reports

Chair Hutcheson shared two updates:

1. Kenilworth and Cedar Lake Trail Grand Reopening at the “Open Trails to the Rails” event: Thanked Council Members Chamblis and Dr. Tyronne Carter for joining the grand reopening. The project was an opportunity to align and join with the Green Line Extension partners.
2. NACTO Conference – thanked Katie Roth, Charles Carlson and Lesley Kandaras for their leadership role with this national conference where other transit agencies came to Minneapolis and explored the region’s transit system.

Council Member Obisakin thanked Council Member colleagues for their support and congratulatory notes on his appointment as the Transportation Committee Vice Chair.

Council Member Cameron thanked her fellow female Council Members for their leadership, mentorship and support during their time as Council leaders.

Council Member Jenkins gave kudos to Metro Transit staff for their work with the Rodeo event and the opportunity to learn how difficult it was to drive a Metro Transit bus.

Regional Administrator shared two updates: June 10, 2026 –there will be a Council-wide townhall at Metro Plant. Council Members are invited to attend as their schedules allow. In addition, staff are working the next steps of building security work –starting with having stanchions in the Council Chambers. Staff will share more information about future training with the Council as details are finalized.

Adjournment

Business completed; the meeting adjourned at 5:55 p.m.

Certification

I hereby certify that the foregoing narrative and exhibits constitute a true and accurate record of the Metropolitan Council meeting of May 13, 2026.

Council contact:

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