Minutes

Metropolitan Council

Meeting date: October 28, 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 4:02 p.m.

Dakota Land, Water, and People Acknowledgment

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

Agenda approved

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

Approval of minutes

It was moved by Toni Carter, seconded by Wulff, to approve the minutes of the October 14, 2026, regular meeting of the Metropolitan Council. **Motion carried**.

Public invitation

No public comments were made.

Other Business

1. **2026-186**: That the Metropolitan Council adopt the Public Comment Draft of the 2027 Unified Budget.

   It was moved by Pacheco, seconded by Lilligren.

   Motion carried on the following roll call vote:

Aye	13	Chamblis, Dr. Tyronne Carter, Barber, Pacheco, Lilligren, Osman, Lindstrom, Dr. Cederberg, Jenkins, Lee, Carter, Wulff, Hutcheson
Nay	0	
Absent	4	Johnson, Cameron, Morales, Obisakin

Consent business

Consent business adopted (Items 1-2)

1. **2026-173**: That the Metropolitan Council adopt the attached Advisory Comments and Review Record and take the following actions:

   1. Authorize the City of Chaska to place its comprehensive plan amendment into effect.

   2. Find that the amendment does not change the City's forecasts.

   3. Revise the Imagine 2050 Community Designation from Agricultural to Suburban Edge for the amendment site as shown in Figure 2 in the Review Record.

   4. Advise the City to implement the advisory comments in the Review Record for Regional Parks and Land Use.

2. **2026-184**: That the Metropolitan Council adopt the attached Review Record and take the following actions:

   1. Authorize the City of Minnetrista to place its comprehensive plan amendment into effect.

   2. Find that the amendment does not change the City's forecasts.

   3. Revise the Imagine 2050 community designation from Diversified Rural to Suburban Edge for the amendment site as shown in Figure 3 in the Review Record.

   4. Advise the City to implement the advisory comments in the Review Record for Transportation, Forecasts, Land Use, and Water Resources.

It was moved by Jenkins seconded by Dr. Tyronne Carter.

Motion carried.

Non-consent business – Reports of standing committees

Community Development

1. No reports.

Environment

1. **2026-196 SW:** That the Metropolitan Council authorize its Regional Administrator to reject all bids for contract 26P103, for construction of Metro WRRF EPS Electrical / EPS & WSE2 Buildings Improvements, Project Number 808928 and 808936.

It was moved by Dr. Cederberg, seconded by Lee.

Motion carried.

Management

1. No reports.

Transportation

1. **2026-171 SW:** That the Metropolitan Council direct recipients of highway right-of-way acquisition loans to sell 13 properties as identified in Table 1 and forward the sales proceeds to the Metropolitan Council in full satisfaction of the loans consistent with Minnesota Statute.

It was moved by Chamblis, seconded by Pacheco.

Motion carried.

Joint Reports

1. No reports.

Information

1. **Fare Policy Update** (Tom Randall, Dustin Crescini)

   Dustin Crescini, Project Manager in Customer Programs, gave an overview of the Outreach and Engagement efforts that have been used to gather community feedback. Crescini summarized the current policy and 2026 Proposal, which includes changes such as implementing $3 fare for express buses at all hours, and extending youth age qualifications to 18.

   Tom Randall, Senior Project Manager in Metro Transit Finance Administration, spoke on the Metro Micro Public Comments that were recorded, which included enthusiasm for payment standardization and concerns over affordability.

   Crescini introduced new technology features such as Tap to Pay and Fare Capping, which will contribute to fare simplification efforts.

Council Members Toni Carter and Council Member Wulff asked questions about fare-capping. Regional Administrator asked how the new format would impact customers that currently qualify for reduced fare. Randall Clarified that although the technology is changing, customers with existing cards will continue to be able to use their legacy cards. Chair Hutcheson addressed the potential impact to corporate partners with existing Metro Transit contracts. Other questions from Council Members were posed regarding credit card payment, impacts to ridership, and sharing Go-To cards.

Randall finished the presentation by outlining the next steps for the Fare Policy, which will return to the Council at the 11/18 Council Meeting. Council Member Barber applauded the efficiency improvements made possible by these updates.

Chair Hutcheson commented that credit card technology reduces barriers to transit in other cities, and she is excited to implement this in our transit system. Regional Administrator expressed support for the program for achieving a fixed fare system after many fare changes.

Reports

Chair Hutcheson reminded the Council about Daylight Savings as this time period reports elevated pedestrian incidents and encouraged everyone to have a plan for election day.

Regional Administrator discussed the Advancing Diversity and Social Change Award, presented at the Minnesota Planning Association to the Met Council for its work with American Indian communities.

Council Member Pacheco spoke on the Equity Advisory Committee's planning session with an outside facilitator to work toward a productive future.

Chair Hutcheson discussed the 30 years of Livable Communities Tour, and thanked teams for their work. Chair also shared that she would deliver the keynote speech at the Transportation Alliance and Women's Transportation Seminar's joint conference, on the topic of Navigating Federal Uncertainty.

Adjournment

Business completed; the meeting adjourned at 4:46 p.m.

Certification

I hereby certify that the foregoing narrative and exhibits constitute a true and accurate record of the Metropolitan Council meeting of October 28, 2026.

Council contact:

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