

Minutes

Metropolitan Council



Meeting date: March 25, 2026

Time: 4:00 PM

Location: 390 Robert Street

Members present:

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chai Lee, District 13 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Reva Chamblis, District 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> Anjuli Cameron, District 8 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Toni Carter, District 14 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tyronne Carter, District 3 | <input type="checkbox"/> Diego Morales, District 9 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Victor Obisakin, District 15 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Deb Barber, District 4 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Peter Lindstrom, District 10 | <input checked="" 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 Member Johnson chaired the meeting and called the regular meeting of the Metropolitan Council to order at 4:00 p.m.

Dakota Land, Water, and People Acknowledgment

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

Agenda approved

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

Approval of minutes

It was moved by Jenkins, seconded by Obisakin, to approve the minutes of the March 11, 2026, regular meeting of the Metropolitan Council. **Motion carried.**

Public invitation

No public comments were made.

Joint report

1. **2026-48 JT:** That the Metropolitan Council authorizes the 2026 Unified Budgets as amended and in accordance with the attached tables.

It was moved by Jenkins, seconded by Obisakin.

Motion carried on the following roll call vote:

Aye	12	Barber, Pacheco, Lilligren, Osman, Lindstrom, Dr. Cederberg, Jenkins, Lee, Toni Carter, Obisakin, Wulff, Johnson
Nay	0	
Absent	5	Chamblis, Dr. Carter, Cameron, Morales, Hutcheson

Consent business

Consent business adopted (Items 1-2)

1. **2026-61 SW:** That the Metropolitan Council adopt an amendment to the 2026-2029 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to reduce the length of MnDOT's I-394 lighting systems replacement from 3.64 miles to 2.968 miles.
2. **2026-71 SW:** That the Metropolitan Council adopt an amendment to the 2026-2029 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to reduce the cost of MnDOT's MN 77 bridge rehabilitation project.

It was moved by Barber, seconded by Osman.

Motion carried.

Non-consent business – Reports of standing committees

Community Development

1. No reports.

Environment

1. No reports.

Management

1. **2026-63:** That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute an amendment to Contract 15P148 with Siemens Mobility, Inc. for light rail vehicles in support of the METRO Green Line Extension Project to amend the Dispute Resolution clause in the Contract.

It was moved by Lilligren, seconded by Cederberg.

Motion carried.

Transportation

1. **2026-43:** That the Metropolitan Council authorizes public hearings to accept comments on the proposed fare policy changes described in Attachment 1 to this item.

It was moved by Barber, seconded by Obisakin.

Motion carried.

Other Business

1. **2026-72:** That the Metropolitan Council approve the following appointments to the Equity Advisory Committee:
 - Taiwo Giwa (District B)
 - Sabrina Tapia Contreras (District F)
 - Odell Brown (District G)
 - Robert Blake (At-Large)
 - Elizabeth Chidothe (At-Large)
 - Ibrahim Owolabi (At-Large)
 - Marquita Stephens (At-Large)
 - Brian Xiong (At-Large)

It was moved by Toni Carter, seconded by Pacheco. Council Members Toni Carter and Pacheco noted that the Equity Advisory Committee received many strong candidates. Staff clarified that there is one more vacant position for districts 15 and 16; and encouraged Council Members to recruit interested residents to apply.

Motion carried.

Information

1. **Renew the Blue Project** (Bob Westgate, Wyatt Jackson, Tonya Norine)

Bob Westgate, Senior Manager – Operations Planning, provided an overview of the METRO Blue Line construction project, which will occur in multi-year phases between 2025 through 2027. The METRO Blue Line will undergo needed improvements, upgrades, and other essential maintenance and will impact the entire line from the Mall of America to Target Field. Buses will replace trains during construction periods.

Wyatt Jackson, Principal Engineer, presented on the details of the primary 2026 rail construction, which runs from June 29-August 19 (52 days). Construction activity includes civil improvements, communications, electrical, mechanical, structural and track & signal work. Blue Line construction work align with timing of the Minneapolis/Saint Paul International Airport (MSP) Terminal 1 station renovation, which is led by the Metropolitan Airports Commission (MAC).

Westgate provided information on bus replacement services during the construction work phase. Metro Transit will incorporate lessons learned from previous events when the Blue Line was closed in 2025 to improve customer experience and coordination with MAC during construction.

Tonya Norine, Market Development Specialist, shared learnings from a marketing and outreach perspective, as well as how Metro Transit will move forward during Blue Line construction. Learnings included marketing placements such as transit media,

announcements and rider alerts; as well as how far in advance to alert timing when buses will replace trains. Outreach and marketing will utilize creative multi-language messages at key stations, develop a toolkit for stakeholders and partners to help with outreach, expand door-to-door engagement with businesses and residents along the corridor, and lastly, elevate wayfinding signage.

Council Members asked about known scheduled events or concerts that will occur during the construction. Staff noted that Metro Transit is aware of multiple events and concerts happening during the Blue Line construction and will be prepared to serve riders attending those events.

Council Members and staff discussed the frequency of construction improvements, impacts to ridership patterns before and after the construction, as well as direct engagement with community partners and residents.

2. Development Trends Along Transit (Ames Yoder)

Ames Yoder, Planner, opened the presentation with an overview of high frequency transit (HFT) and development type definitions. HFT station areas and buffers make up 4% of the seven-county metropolitan region by land area. Since 2009, 39% of regional development has been permitted along high frequency transit corridors. Looking at permits data in 2024, notable trends showed decrease in permits and construction while regional permit value for all development types remained at 38%. There were 2,750 new multi-family units in 2024 and this is under 50% compared to the peak in 2022. Since 2009, 69,000 multi-family units permitted along HFT, which represent 42% of multi-family units in the region and \$21.7 billion in development value. Commercial development near HFT represents 44% of commercial value in the region. The commercial development in last few years leaned toward smaller value. Looking at ten-year data (2014-2024), 50% of affordable housing units near HFT and 76% of deeply affordable housing units (30% AMI) near HFT. Presenter concluded that the region's growth has concentrated along high frequency transit as the transit network has grown.

Council Members and staff discussed impacts of parking minimums, data on displacement around transit stations, as well as the need to connect trend data to transit-oriented development policy.

Reports

Council Member Barber shared that Transportation Committee moved the corridor plan for public comments for the H Line. There has been a lot of progress made since the A Line.

Regional Administrator provided two updates: Governor signed executive order as it relates to establishing a council to document the impacts of Operation Metro Surge. In addition, the Council's organization-wide Culture Survey results will be released on April 6, 2026 and the divisional-level results will be released on April 14, 2026. The survey had good response rates and showed improvements from previous year.

General Counsel thanked the Council for their support of the budget amendment.

Adjournment

Business completed; the meeting adjourned at 5:47 p.m.



Certification

I hereby certify that the foregoing narrative and exhibits constitute a true and accurate record of the Metropolitan Council meeting of March 25, 2026.

Council contact:

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