

Minutes

Transportation Committee



Meeting date: February 23, 2026

Time: 4:00 PM

Location: Robert St Chambers

Members present:

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chair, Deb Barber, D4 | <input 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 |
- = present, E = excused

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 4:03 p.m.

Agenda approved

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

Approval of minutes

It was moved by Chamblis, seconded by Osman to approve the minutes of the January 26, 2026, regular meeting of the Transportation Committee. **Motion carried.**

Reports

1. Metropolitan Transportation Services Director
Executive Director Carlson shared that his report consists of the Workplan information item.
2. Metro Transit General Manager
General Manager Kandaras reported on upcoming annual national event Transit Employee Appreciation Day and Great Day in Transit.
3. Transportation Advisory Board (TAB)
TAB Liaison Dugan reported on recent TAB items, specifically safety concerns.
4. Transportation Accessibility Advisory Board (TAAC)

There was no TAAC report.

Consent business

Consent business adopted

1. 2026-38 SW: 2026-2029 TIP Amendment: NEVI Charging Station (Joe Barbeau, 651-602-1750)
2. 2026-39 SW: 2026-2029 TIP Amendment Request – MN 77 Bridge Rehabilitation (Joe Barbeau, 651-602-1750)
3. 2026-58 SW: Authorization to Apply for Section 5311 Formula Grants for Rural Areas Funding – Resolution 2026-4 (Sheila Williams 651-602-1709)

It was moved by Obisakin, seconded by Osman.

Motion carried.

Non-consent business

1. 2026-32 SW: 2550 University Ave Lease, Contract 25I069 for Engineering and Construction (Robert Rimstad 612-349-7768, Kristin Mason 612-349-7186)

It was moved by Osman, seconded by Obisakin, that the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute contract 25I069 with Suntide Commercial Realty, Inc, for the 10-year lease agreement in the amount of \$6,770,836.94, which includes a Tenant Improvement Allowance (TIA) to build out the space and Common Area Maintenance (CAM) expenses.

Council Members asked clarifying questions about specific locations, employee and contractor staff numbers.

Motion carried.

2. 2026-33 SW: METRO Blue Line Extension – Master Utility Agreement (“MUA”) #24M045 with Northern States Power Company (Alicia Vap 612-349-7079)

It was moved by Osman, seconded by Chamblis, that the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute a Master Utility Agreement #24M045 (“MUA”) with Northern States Power Company (“NSP”) to allow for reimbursement of compensable utility relocation costs that conflict with the METRO Blue Line Extension, in an amount not to exceed \$18,600,000.

CM Johnson asked about contingency plans for potential funding for contracts.

Motion carried.

3. 2026-55: METRO Blue Line Extension - Utility Relocation Agreement #25M010 with Qwest Corporation d/b/a CenturyLink QC (Alicia Vap 612-349-7079)

It was moved by Chamblis, seconded by Obisakin, that the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute a Utility Relocation Agreement #25M010 (“URA”) with Qwest Corporation, d/b/a CenturyLink QC (“Qwest”), to allow for reimbursement of compensable utility relocation costs that conflict with the METRO Blue Line Extension in an amount not to exceed \$2,356,016.

Motion carried. Hearing no objection, Chair Barber stated the item could proceed Consent to Council.

4. 2026-41: OnRoute Equipment and Software Maintenance Agreement, Contract 20P218 – Amendment 2 (Jacob Dada 612-349-7394, Josh Alswager 651-602-1065)

It was moved by Obisakin, seconded by Osman, that the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute an amendment to contract 20P218 with



Trapeze Software Group, Inc., dba Vontas, that will add \$10,500,000 for OnRoute equipment, software maintenance and support for a total contract amount not to exceed \$20,841,807.

Council Members asked questions about automated passenger counting, and vendor details.

Motion carried. Hearing no objection, Chair Barber stated the item could proceed Consent to Council.

5. 2026-46: Arterial Bus Rapid Transit Plan Update Final Recommendations (Kyle O'Donnell Burrows 612-349-7749)

It was moved by Osman, seconded by Obisakin, that the Metropolitan Council adopt the recommendations from the 2025 Arterial BRT Plan Update, identifying the West 7th corridor as the J Line and the Nicollet corridor as the K Line.

Council Members asked questions about equity, alignment details, and voiced appreciation for the teamwork on the item.

Motion carried.

6. 2026-47: Metro Transit Hybrid Bus Procurement (Jeremiah Riter 612-349-5005)

It was moved by Johnson, seconded by Obisakin, that the Metropolitan Council authorizes the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute contract 26P058 with Gillig LLC utilizing the State of Washington's Master Contract 06719-01 to purchase (109) 40-foot electric-hybrid buses for the Council's regular route services in an amount not to exceed \$ 133,602,701.71

CM Obisakin asked about fire safety.

Motion carried.

7. 2026-49: Metropolitan Airport Commission Bus Garage Facility Lease Agreement Amendment (Claudius Toussaint 612-349-7770)

It was moved by Osman, seconded by Chamblis, that the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute an extension to lease agreement #201010 with the Metropolitan Airport Commission for the South Garage facility for a total contract amount not to exceed \$19,350,000.

Motion carried. Hearing no objection, Chair Barber stated the item could proceed Consent to Council.

8. 2026-45: Transit Link Service for Anoka and Hennepin Counties, Contract 25P197 (Sheila Williams 651-602-1709)

It was moved by Obisakin, seconded by Osman, that the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute contract 25P197 with Transit Team for Transit Link service in Anoka and Hennepin counties in an amount not to exceed \$37,307,890.

Motion carried. Hearing no objection, Chair Barber stated the item could proceed Consent to Council.

Information

1. 2026 Transportation Committee Workplan (Lesley Kandaras 612-349-7513, Charles Carlson 612-605)
Council Members asked for workplan updates and offered suggestions.
2. Metro Transit Forward Update (Lesley Kandaras 612-349-7513)
Council Members voiced appreciation for the item.
3. Quarterly Service Change/Workforce (Adam Harrington 612-349-7797, Shanta Hejmadi 612-349-7107)



Council Members asked for a future breakout between CSOs and Police Officers, considerations of potential impacts.

Adjournment

Business completed; the meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

Certification

I hereby certify that the foregoing narrative and exhibits constitute a true and accurate record of the Transportation Committee meeting of February 23, 2026.

Council contact:

Jenna Ernst, Recording Secretary
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