



METRO Blue Line Extension Special Meeting of the Corridor Management Committee (CMC)	
Date & Time	August 6, 2026 1:30 – 3:00 PM
Location	F.T. Heywood Chambers, 560 N 6th Ave, Minneapolis
CMC Members	Robin Hutcheson, Reva Chamblis, Anjuli Cameron, Amanda Xiong, Theresa Kiser, Nick Thompson, Lesley Kandaras, Charles Rucker, Hollis Winston, Yassin Osman, Candy Bakion, Khani Sahebjam, Kristian Evans, Brad Sutton, Irene Fernando, Jeffrey Lunde, Marion Greene
Presenters	Ricardo Perez, Karla Arredondo, Alicia Vap and Nick Thompson

1. Call to Order and Welcome

Chair Robin Hutcheson, Metropolitan Council Chair, called the METRO Blue Line Extension (BLE) Special Meeting of the Corridor Management Committee (CMC) meeting to order at 1:34 pm. Chair Hutcheson welcomed members to the meeting and asked for members to introduce themselves.

Chair Hutcheson acknowledged the frustration heard about the CMC meeting gap. The past several months involved waiting for information from a risk assessment from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and taking longer than anticipated. Chair Hutcheson shared that today project staff will present new project budget, report out on ongoing work since the last CMC meeting.

Chair Hutcheson noted that today's meeting materials can be found on the BLE project's website at bluelineext.org, and mentioned that members of the public are welcome to submit any comments regarding today's meeting to Nkongo Cigolo, Metropolitan Council, by Friday, August 14, 2026. Comments will be posted on project website as part of meeting summary. Packets for CMC members included written comments from members of public. Chair Hutcheson also highlighted CMC members received information from two former advisory committees: Business Advisory Committee (BAC) and Community Advisory Committee (CAC). Per request of former BAC and CAC members, both committees have been combined to single Community and Business Working Group (CBWG) at the conclusion of environmental review process last year. CBWG will advise CMC by sharing meeting notes as updates about their ongoing activities related to the project. Today's packets include CBWG meeting minutes and summaries sent via email to committee members on July 30, 2026.



Chair Hutcheson noted that today's meeting is to allow the project team to share key project details concerning recent project developments, Anti-Displacement Prosperity Program updates, and project scope, funding, and schedule.

2. Approval of November 13, 2025, BLE CMC Meeting Minutes

Chair Hutcheson called for a motion to approve November 13, 2025, meeting Minutes. Reva Chamblis, Metropolitan Council Member, moved a motion to approve the minutes, and seconded by Charles Rucker, Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board member. The minutes were officially approved and will be posted on project website.

**3. Anti-Displacement Community Prosperity Program (ACPP) Board Update
Blue Line Extension Coalition – New Chair of ACPP**

Ricardo Perez introduced Karla Arrendondo as the new Co-Chair of the ACPP Board. Mr. Perez also shared about the beginnings of ACPP, and introduced two other new Co-Chairs, Victoria Karpeh and KB Brown.

Chair Hutcheson thanked Mr. Perez and Ms. Arrendondo for their service.

Ms. Arrendondo shared she's the Executive Director of a non-profit, Pueblos de Lucha Esperanza. Ms. Arrendondo acknowledged, although the last few months involved a new transition of Board leadership, the Board remains committed to transparency, accountability and community-centered decision making. A big priority since last year was to increase community participation, and shared that several new community members have joined the Board. The Board continues to actively seek representatives from the corridors.

Ms. Arrendondo shared the Board's most significant responsibility is overseeing the distribution of program funds. The Board's Program and Funding committee has developed a community-centered funding approach for the application process and review process based on legislative requirement and program goals. The Board has approved approximately \$2M-pilot funds from the \$10M appropriated by the state to address top anti-displacement funding priority categories to support initiatives that preserve and expand affordable housing, support small businesses, increase access to real estate and ownership, strengthen housing stability, expand economic opportunity and long-term community prosperity to support the people mostly impacted by displacement. Ms. Arrendondo shared an example of recent awards, which highlights the impact the legislature envisioned when creating the Board which is investing in trusted community organizations that understand local needs and best to help residents remain in their neighborhoods.

Ms. Arrendondo also shared a lesson learned from the pilot program specifically about the operation and administration process, and how smaller organization awardees experienced barriers because of their limited cash reserves. Ms. Arrendondo shared the



board continues to be committed to transparency, stewardship of public funds and collaborating with Hennepin County/partners to move funds more efficiently.

Chair Hutcheson thanked Ms. Arredondo for her comments.

Anjuli Cameron, Metropolitan Council Member, shared appreciation for the new board already talking about lessons learned and how to be more efficient and thanked Mr. Perez for his service.

Chair Hutcheson also confirmed she's meeting with Mr. Perez and looks forward to learning more about the work and extended the invitation to Ms. Arredondo and Candy Bakion.

Hennepin County Update

Irene Fernando, Hennepin County Commissioner, shared that the Hennepin County Board and the Hennepin County Regional Railroad Authority voted on August 4th to approve \$2.52B as local funding for the Blue Line Extension project. Commissioner Fernando commented about roles of project partners and the development potentials of the project highlighting \$14 billion of new development along light rail and \$3 billion along METRO Green Line Extension.

Chair Hutcheson shared a thank you to the Hennepin County Commissioners.

4. Project Scope, Funding, and Schedule Update

Alicia Vap, Blue Line Extension Project Director, provided project updates, including current project budget of \$3.58 billion, committed funding of \$2.52 billion, anticipated Federal Transit Administration (FTA) funding of \$752 million, and anticipated reduced scope and budget of \$195 million.

Ms. Vap noted the Project Decisions Board (PDB), which includes Metropolitan Council, Hennepin County, and Hennepin County Regional Railroad Authority members, approved the 4 scope reductions that were recommended to submit to the FTA for their review.

Project staff met with FTA to discuss the scope reductions and have provided additional requested materials for FTA to review. If FTA approves the requested reduced scope items, the funding gap would be \$224M.

The following items are the anticipated reduced scope elements and budget reduction items that were shared with the PDB and FTA:

- 63rd Avenue Station Pedestrian Bridge – Estimated savings: \$19.1M
- Oak Grove Park & Ride/Rail Operation Building – Estimated savings: \$15.5M



- Systems Construction Costs – Estimated savings: \$80M – will be working on this item the most with FTA.
- Finance Charges – Estimated savings: \$75M

CM Chamblis asked about the speed for Highway 81, and Ms. Vap responded the speed will be evaluated after construction.

Nick Thompson, Metro Transit Deputy General Manager of Capital Programs, shared that with the County support, there remains a gap. Staff have been analyzing options to reduce the gap.

Commissioner Fernando wanted to highlight the consideration of reducing the number of trains to two-car trains instead of three-car trains would be a savings of \$48M. Mr. Thompson shared that travel time and frequency are considered to generate the number of trains needed for the project, which drove the total of 35 vehicles needed for the extended Blue Line. Metro Transit needs to operate consistently as a light rail network, which operates on three-car trains.

Commissioner Greene wants to understand what that total vehicle need will cover. Mr. Thompson shared that Metro Transit would begin daily service using two-car trains, and the need for three-car trains in a typical year is 50 days.

Mayor Hollis Winston highlighted there are disparities in the transit network and requested consideration to the reduction of vehicles. Jeffrey Lunde, Hennepin County Commissioner, expressed support for reducing vehicles to further reduce the funding gap.

Mr. Perez shared he would like to understand what the end users experience will be with the scope changes and Chair Hutcheson offered for the team to attend a future ACPP meeting.

CM Chamblis would like to understand the frequency between 15 vs. 10 minutes and its impact on light rail and number of cars. Mr. Thompson responded frequency drives how many vehicles are needed on buses or trains. She asked as the demand changes, would we be able to add more vehicles? Mr. Thompson noted it takes about 4 and a half years from procurement to operations and therefore would be unable to add vehicles quickly.

Mr. Rucker asked the capacity for each vehicle? Brian Funk, Chief Operation Officer for Metro Transit, shared that estimating 180 per vehicle.

Kristian Evans, Policy Aide in Mayor Frye's office, noted that Minneapolis stays committed to this project.



CM Cameron shared that Met Council wants this to move forward, but many things have been considered. This is a challenge because we want the community to receive the transportation that this project will offer. She gave thanks to the project team that has been working hard on this.

Yassin Osman, Metropolitan Council Member, asked if two-car or three-car trains would impact the proposed 13 station designs. Mr. Thompson shared that the stations are designed for three cars.

Mayor Winston shared he recognized there are difficult decisions that need to be made and highlighted the negative impact of 50 days a year vs. 365 days a year of not having transit.

Commissioner Lunde referred to a Met Council document about a \$2.3 billion unallocated transit opportunity fund for the next 25 years, potential savings from the closing of Northstar transit option, and funds loaned to MnDOT coming from taxpayers' money for the transit fund. He stated Met Council was able to find funding for the Green Line Extension, and he believes Met Council has the money to cover this gap.

Chair Hutcheson noted her commitment is to get to the Federal Funding Grant Agreement (FFGA) application submitted quickly. The funding Commissioner Lunde referenced can be found in the Council's Transportation Policy Plan. The funds are prescriptive to 13 categories that are allowable in state statute and projected over a long period of time. The 13 items don't include the current project's investment. In 2023, the new sales tax funding provided Metro Transit the ability to fund entirely the operation of the project about \$3.2 billion over 32 years of operation, capital, maintenance and repair. This would've been a shared cost with the county before the sales tax. The Council is not done with looking at all project funding solutions.

Commissioner Lunde stated funds from 5307 were used for the Green Line Extension, and he disagrees with the Council's interpretation of the state statute. Mayor Winston also express concerns about this interpretation, seeking interest in learning more.

Chair Hutcheson stated 5307 funds were used on Green Line Extension and were allocated before the 2023 legislation being discussed.

Commissioner Fernando shared that this is disappointing that the Council cannot use these dollars, especially given statistics about health disparities of communities in the corridor. Commissioner Fernando requested additional opportunities to continue discussion.

Chair Hutcheson shared appreciation for the candid conversation and reiterated commitment to the project. The next meeting is scheduled for September 24.



5. Next Meeting: September 24, 2026

6. Adjourn

Chair Hutcheson thanked everyone for their time and adjourned the meeting at 3:05pm.

Meeting Materials Provided:

Meeting Agenda, August 6, 2026

CMC Presentation

November 13, 2025 CMC Minutes

Written Comments submitted by community members

Respectfully submitted, Luana Steele, Blue Line Ext. Administrative Lead