

Minutes

Metropolitan Council



Meeting date: January 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 Dr. Tyronne Carter.

Agenda approved

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

Approval of minutes

It was moved by Morales, seconded by Jenkins to approve the minutes of the January 14, 2026, regular meeting of the Metropolitan Council. **Motion carried.**

Public invitation

Maddy Schwartz of Minneapolis and Council employee, addressed the Council and asked the Council to give bus operators the right to ban ICE from buses and trains.

Sam Limerick of Minneapolis and Council employee, addressed the Council to meet the moment with bold actions with increased transparency with Council action and to provide training to bus and train operators.

Sarah Rodman of Minneapolis and Council employee, addressed the Council and requested the Council to take stronger actions such as banning ICE from buses.

David Stiggers, president of ATU Local 1005, addressed the Council and shared stories of ATU members who were detained by federal agents. Speaker urged the Council to establish an emergency hardship program dedicated to supporting employees who are detained by ICE; services should include access to legal assistance, mental healthcare, and re-integration support services.

Information

1. Metropolitan Airports Commission Update

Brian Ryks, CEO of Metropolitan Airports Commission (MAC), provided an annual update to the Council. Mr. Ryks shared details regarding MAC financials, MSP passengers and operations, facility and airfield improvements, leveraging technology to optimize customer experience and operation.

Council Members asked questions around sustainability, plans for assisting passengers beyond security checkpoints, artificial intelligence and its impact on the workforce, and whether MSP airport was impacted by the federal government shutdown at the end of 2025.

Joint reports

1. **2026-1 JT:** That the Metropolitan Council authorizes the 2025 and 2026 Unified Budgets as amended and in accordance with the attached tables.

It was moved by Pacheco, seconded by Chamblis.

Motion carried on the following roll call vote:

Aye	14	Chamblis, Dr. Carter, Barber, Pacheco, Lilligren, Cameron, Morales, Lindstrom, Dr. Cederberg, Jenkins, Toni Carter, Obisakin, Wulff, Hutcheson
Nay	0	
Absent	3	Johnson, Osman, Lee

Consent business

Consent business adopted (Items 1-10)

1. **2025-305:** That the Metropolitan Council ratify the Emergency Declaration for repairs to Interceptor 7027-1 in Golden Valley in an amount not to exceed \$2,000,000.
2. **2026-7:** That the Metropolitan Council:
 1. Find that the Metropolitan Airports Commission (MAC) had an adequate public participation process for the development and review of its 2026-2032 Capital Improvement Program (CIP), including preparation of an assessment of environmental effects (AOEE) for 2026 projects with potential environmental effects.

2. Find that the 2026 CIP projects are in conformance with the region's Aviation System Plan in the 2050 Transportation Policy Plan and consistent with Council policy.
3. **2026-9:** That the Metropolitan Council adopt the 2026 roadway safety performance targets, which advance a long-term goal of zero deaths:
 1. Number of all fatalities: no more than 71
 2. Fatal injuries per 100 million VMT: no more than 0.25
 3. Number of all serious injuries: no more than 445
 4. Serious injuries per 100 million VMT: no more than 1.55
 5. Pedestrian and bicyclist fatalities and serious injuries: no more than 110
4. **2026-11:** That the Metropolitan Council authorizes the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute a Cooperative Construction Agreement with the City of Hastings for the installation of new trunk sewer pipes associated with providing a future new sewer service point for Hastings, ES Project No. 809530, for an amount not to exceed \$7,000,000.
5. **2026-12:** That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute sole source purchase orders for ongoing maintenance, hosted services and support services in an amount not to exceed \$ 5,628,662. This includes installed software and hardware referenced on the attached 2026 Information Services Sole Source Vendor List.
6. **2026-13:** That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute contract 25P339 with New Flyer / NFI Group to exercise purchase options utilizing the State of Washington's Master Contract #06719 for two replacement 60' articulated buses in an amount not to exceed \$2,200,000.
7. **2026-14:** That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute contract 25P341 with Gillig, LLC to exercise purchase options utilizing the State of Washington's Master Contract #06719 for nineteen replacement heavy duty buses of various sizes in an amount not to exceed \$15,800,000.
8. **2026-28 SW:** That the Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute Amendment Three to Contract 21P247 with Corval Constructors Inc. to provide pipefitting services in an amount not to exceed \$9.3 million (an increase of \$500,000).
9. **2026-30 SW:** That the Metropolitan Council adopt an amendment to the 2026-2029 Transportation Improvement Program to (TIP) make the following project adjustments:
 - Decrease the cost of MnDOT's Minnesota 77 (Cedar Avenue) unbounded concrete overlay project in Apple Valley.
 - Reduce the length of MnDOT's I-94 landscaping project in Oakdale and Woodbury.
 - Reduce the cost of Little Canada's CSAH 21 (Little Canada Rd) at Country Road C (Lake Shore Avenue) projects and associate them with MnDOT's I-35E at CSAH 21 signal project.
10. **2026-31 SW:** That the Metropolitan Council adopt an amendment to the 2026-2029 TIP to add Minneapolis's Transportation Safety Countermeasures project.

It was moved by Morales, seconded by Dr. Tyrone Carter.

Motion carried.

Non-consent business – Reports of standing committees

Community Development

1. No reports.

Environment

1. No reports.

Management

1. No reports.

Transportation

1. **2026-8:** That the Metropolitan Council accept the 2050 TPP Amendment 2 public comment report and adopt 2050 TPP Amendment 2 (attached), updating and replacing the 2050 Aviation System Plan.

It was moved by Barber, seconded by Morales.

Motion carried.

Other Business

1. **2026-21:** That the Metropolitan Council:
 1. Accept the attached public comment report and adopt the 2025 Regional Economic Framework.
 2. Direct Council staff to finalize the 2025 Regional Economic Framework and submit it to the U.S. Economic Development Administration.
 3. Direct Council staff to use the Regional Economic Framework to guide technical assistance to local governments and other entities throughout the region.

Council Members noted the importance of working with regional partners and Greater MSP to move this work forward. Regional Administrator clarified that the approval of the business item is approval of the public comment process, not the comments that the process generated.

It was moved by Barber, seconded by Cameron.

Motion carried.

Information

1. 2026 Union Negotiations - Bargaining Overview

Cassy Fogale, Assistant Director, Labor Relations, presented a high-level overview of 2026 union negotiations, bargaining roles of the employer and unions, as well as the process for upcoming round of negotiations.

Reports

Chair Hutcheson shared that Governor Walz and MN Attorney General Ellison continue their work to end Metro Surge. Out of respect to mayors and counties who are overwhelmed by current events, the 2026 State of the Region event is postponed and a new date will be set soon. Chair Hutcheson noted that the Statewide Climate Framework was finalized this week and thanked Council Member Lindstrom and Executive Director Lisa Barajas for their hard work. There is no meeting on February 4, 2026.

CM Lilligren shared that the Council's proposal for the 2026 APA National Planning Conference has been accepted. The Council will lead a panel discussion focused on its Tribal Relations work related to the Land, Water & People Acknowledgement and its commitments.

CM Dr. Tyrone Carter made a personal statement with regard to ICE activities in the region. Dr. Carter supports Governor Walz's and Chair Hutcheson's positions as they relate to the increased presence of federal agents in the region. In addition, Dr. Carter notes that he stands in solidarity with the people who have been harassed and oppressed in the metro area.

CM Cameron appreciates the Council employees' commitment towards better treatment of our immigrant communities across the state and emphasized that the Council cares about these issues as a leadership group and in each Council Member's personal life. CM Cameron honored fellow Council Members for their incredible work and sacrifice outside of the Council.

Regional Administrator thanked staff for working through the weekend and noted Metro Transit leadership focused on operating and moving people safely. With the Office of General Counsel, the Council continues to review all information and direct observations that come through from the Council and staff.

General Counsel acknowledged and thanked staff for continuing to do an amazing job in uncertain times. While the advice can be unsatisfying and frustrating at times, the Office of General Counsel cannot give advice to staff as individual people. General Counsel expressed feeling proud that people are working hard to keep the region going.

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 Metropolitan Council meeting of January 28, 2026.

Council contact:

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