

Minutes

Transportation Committee



Meeting date: August 24, 2026

Time: 4:00 PM

Location: Heywood Chambers

Members present:

☒ Chair, Reva Chamblis, D2	☒ Tyronne Carter, District 3	☒ Yassin Osman, District 7
☒ Vice Chair, Victor Obisakin, D15	☒ Deb Barber, District 4	☐ Anjuli Cameron, District 8
☒ Judy Johnson, District 1	☒ John Pacheco Jr., District 5	☒ Toni Carter, District 14
		☒ = 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, Committee Chair Chamblis called the regular meeting of the Transportation Committee to order at 4:01 p.m.

Agenda approved

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

Approval of minutes

It was moved by Obisakin, seconded by Carter, Tyronne to approve the minutes of the August 10, 2026, regular meeting of the Transportation Committee. **Motion carried.**

Employee recognition – Metro Transit

1. Metro Transit General Manager

Metro Transit General Manager Lesley Kandaras introduced and presented awards to the following staff for their work on the Renew the Blue project: TCC Assistant Manager Jack Buttke, Events and Fare Programs Program Specialist Nick Gorell, Market Development Specialist Tonya Norine and Operations Planning Senior Manager Bob Westgate. Not present: Transit Information Field Operations Specialist Tariq Muwahid.

Reports

1. Transportation Planning Director

Amy Vennewitz reported that Peter Dugan, TAB Liaison, will deliver the TAB report and that

two of Transportation Planning annual items are on the agenda.

2. Metro Transit General Manager

Lesley Kandaras reported that the Renew the Blue project concluded last week and that State Fair starts on Thursday.

3. Transportation Advisory Board (TAB)

Peter Dugan reported on the August TAB meeting.

Consent business

Consent business adopted

1. **2026-165:** Authorize Grant Agreement with the Regents of the University of Minnesota

Proposed Action: That the Metropolitan Council authorizes its Regional Administrator to execute a subrecipient grant agreement with the Regents of the University of Minnesota for the purchase of two (2) replacement articulated buses in the amount of \$2,200,000.

It was moved by Carter, Toni, seconded by Obisakin.

Motion carried.

Non-consent business

1. **2026-124 JT:** 2026 Third Quarter Budget Amendment

It was moved by Johnson, seconded by Obisakin, that the Metropolitan Council authorize the 2026 Unified Budget amendment as indicated, and in accordance with, the attached tables.

Metro Transit Budget and Grants Manager Nathan Randall and Metropolitan Transportation Services Finance Director Heather Giesel presented this item. Council members did not have any questions or comments.

Motion carried.

2. **2026-126:** 2027-2030 Transportation Improvement Program

It was moved by Obisakin, seconded by Carter, Tyronne, that the Metropolitan Council:

- Adopt the 2027-2030 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area.
- Certify that the Twin Cities Metropolitan Planning Process is addressing major issues facing the metropolitan planning area and is being carried on in conformance with all applicable federal requirements of:
 - 23 U.S.C. 134 and 49 U.S.C. 5303, and this subpart;
 - Sections 174 and 176 (c) and (d) of the Clean Air Act as amended (42 U.S.C. 7504, 7506 (c) and (d)) and 40 CFR part 93;
 - Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended (42 USC 2000d-1) and 49 CFR part 21;
 - 49 USC 5332, prohibiting discrimination on the basis of race, color, creed, national origin, sex, or age in employment or business opportunity;
 - Section 1101(b) of Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act (Pub L. 114-357) and 49 CFR Part 26 regarding the involvement of disadvantaged business enterprises in US DOT funded projects;
 - 23 CFR part 230, regarding the implementation of an equal employment opportunity program on Federal and Federal-aid highway construction contracts;
 - The provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.) and 49 CFR Parts 27, 37, and 38;
 - The Older Americans Act, as amended (42 U.S.C 6101), prohibiting discrimination on the basis of age in programs or activities receiving Federal financial assistance;
 - Section 324 of title 23, U.S.C regarding the prohibition of discrimination based on gender;

and;

- Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 794)
- Certify the TIP conforms to the provisions of 49 CFR part 20 regarding lobbying restrictions on influencing certain federal activities.
- Find that the TIP is consistent with the Transportation Policy Plan, which is in conformance with applicable federal transportation and air quality regulations.
- Find that the TIP meets all applicable executive orders and federal requirements.
- Find that the TAB provided adequate opportunity for involvement from the public, agency and transit operators through its regular process and public comment period.
- Transmit the 2027-2030 TIP along with public comments to the Minnesota Department of Transportation.

Transportation Planning Planning Analyst Joe Barbeau presented this item. Johnson asked if projects ever come out of the TIP. Barbeau stated there have been two instances: one where there was public angst about a project, which led to an examination of the project scoring and determination the project's score was mis calculated; second was a sponsor that had pulled out their project that was submitted for a TIP amendment.

Motion carried.

3. **2026-127:** 2027 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

It was moved by Carter, Toni, seconded by Obisakin, that the Metropolitan Council:

- Adopt the attached 2027 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), with a budget of approximately \$11.9 million, including approximately \$6.0 million in federal funds
- Authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute an agreement with the Minnesota Department of Transportation for receipt of Federal Highway Administration and Federal Transit Administration planning funds.

Transportation Planning Manager of Multimodal Planning Frank Alarcon presented this item. Carter, Tyronne asked how the \$6M in federal funds compared to what was received in prior years. Alarcon stated it was similar but grows slightly each year (2026 was \$5.9M). Transportation Planning Director Amy Vennewitz clarified that the Council receives the money through MnDOT, who receives the money from the federal government and then distributes it among the 8 Minnesota MPOs.

Motion carried. Hearing no objection, Chair Chamblis stated this item could proceed as consent to Council.

4. **2026-128:** Extended Urbanized Area Memorandum of Understanding

It was moved by Barber, seconded by Johnson, that the Metropolitan Council adopt the updated Memorandum of Understanding with the urbanized area of Wright and Sherburne Counties, its applicable cities, and the Region 7W Policy Board.

Transportation Planning Planning Analyst Dave Burns presented this item. Johnson asked for clarification on how projects are being handled and if the extended area receives money from the Council. Burns stated this is just an MOU that outlines the relationship between the extended area staff and the staff in the MPO and there are no implications on funding. Transportation Planning Director Amy Vennewitz added that federal competitive grants require a letter of support from the MPO; in an instance of an extended area community seeking federal funding, their staff would come to Metropolitan Council staff for a letter of support.

Motion carried. Hearing no objection, Chair Chamblis stated this item could proceed as consent to Council.

5. **2026-145:** Master Contract for Mechanical Engineering Services for Design and Assessment Services, Contract 25P274

It was moved by Carter, Toni, seconded by Osman, that the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to award and execute contract 25P274 with TKDA for mechanical design services that will support Metro Transit Engineering and Facilities in an amount not to exceed \$3,000,000.

Metro Transit Engineering and Construction Manager Robert Rimstad presented this item. Council members discussed MCUB/DBE goals and contract duration. Rimstad stated the contract is to not exceed 5 years or until the value is spent.

Motion carried. Hearing no objection, Chair Chamblis stated this item could proceed as consent to Council.

6. **2026-146:** Master Contracts for Architectural/Engineering Services for Roof, Façade Design, Maintenance, and Inspection Services, Contract 25P326

It was moved by Osman, seconded by Carter, Toni, that the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to award and execute contracts 25P326A and 25P236B for architectural/engineering services that will support Metro Transit Engineering and Construction in an amount not to exceed \$3,000,000 as follows:

Organization	Contract Number	Contract Amount
Inspec	25P326A	\$2,000,000
TKDA	25P326B	\$1,000,000

Metro Transit Engineering and Construction Manager Robert Rimstad presented this item. There was discussion about why this was split into two vendors, which Rimstad explained was due to the specialized work and the potential amount of work in the areas of need.

Motion carried. Hearing no objection, Chair Chamblis stated this item could proceed as consent to Council.

7. **2026-151 SW:** METRO G Line – Construction Contract 26P075

It was moved by Carter, Toni, seconded by Obisakin, that the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to award and execute contract 26P075 with Meyer Contracting, Inc. for construction of the METRO G Line Arterial BRT project in an amount not to exceed \$20,726,416.

Metro Transit Principal Engineer Evan Owens-Ambrogio presented this item. Council members expressed excitement for this line and thanked staff for their work. Owens-Ambrogio provided additional context to the public engagement piece, including approaches being used with the G Line (contractor incentives and a public facing detour exhibit) that were lessons learned from previous projects. Council members discussed the importance of outreach to the businesses and customers along the corridor before and during construction.

Barber recused. Motion carried.

8. **2026-150:** METRO H Line – Authorization to Release Recommended Corridor Plan for Public Comment

It was moved by Osman, seconded by Carter, Toni, that the Council authorize release of the METRO H Line Recommended Corridor Plan for public review and comment; and direct staff to collect public comments through Wednesday, October 7, 2026, summarize comments, and report the findings to the Metropolitan Council.

Metro Transit Senior Planner Jordan Kocak presented this item. Council members expressed excitement about the project and thanked staff for their work. Johnson asked what the total project cost is and projected opening date. Kocak stated at the planning phase the cost is estimated to be \$150M and expected to open in 2029 or 2030; both will potentially be revised as the project enters the engineering phase.

Barber recused. Motion carried.

9. **2026-155:** METRO Bronze Line Bus Rapid Transit – Environmental, Engineering, and Project Management Contract 26P018

It was moved by Obisakin, seconded by Osman, that the Metropolitan Council (“the Council”) authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute contract 26P018 with Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc, to provide environmental, engineering and project management services for the METRO Bronze Line Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Project (“Project”) in an amount not to exceed \$23,447,572.

Metro Transit Bronze Line Director Craig Lamothe and Principal Contract Administrator Edwin Awason presented this item. Council members did not have any questions or comments.

Barber recused. Motion carried.

10. **2026-159:** METRO Green Line Extension Freight Rail Maintenance and Repair Contract 21P143B - Amendment No. 2

It was moved by Carter, Tyronne, seconded by Osman, that the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute an amendment to contract 21P143B with North Shore Track Services, Inc. to add a not to exceed amount of \$2,178,484.70 for a total contract not to exceed amount of \$7,868,056.97.

Metro Transit Project Director Jim Alexander presented this item. Council members did not have any questions or comments.

Motion carried. Hearing no objection, Chair Chamblis stated this item could proceed as consent to Council.

Information

1. Network Now Amendment

Metro Transit System Planning Manager Ryan Heath presented this item. Council members discussed suburban transit providers, Metro Micro service areas and public engagement around the discontinued service. Council members thanked staff for their work.

Adjournment

Business completed; the meeting adjourned at 6:20p.m.

Certification

I hereby certify that the foregoing narrative and exhibits constitute a true and accurate record of the Transportation Committee meeting of August 24, 2026.

Council contact:

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