

# METROPOLITAN COUNCIL FACTS



## Fostering a prosperous region

The Metropolitan Council plans for the future of the seven-county Minneapolis-St. Paul metro area in partnership with 189 communities. We provide cost-effective transit and wastewater services, and assist communities as they plan for anticipated growth. Our mission is to foster efficient and economic growth for a prosperous metropolitan region.

### The Council's current priorities include:

- Create a financially sustainable, 21st century transportation system
- Promote dynamic housing opportunities for all
- Leverage investments that drive regional economic development

## Supporting the region's economic vitality

The Council's planning and services provides a foundation for regional economic vitality. The Council:

- Operates Metro Transit, which carried 81.4 million bus and rail passengers in 2013, and wins awards for innovation and efficiency
- Makes strategic investments in a growing network of bus and rail transitways, and transit-oriented development
- Collects and treats wastewater for 90% of the region's population at rates 45% lower than peer regions, and earns state and national awards for environmental achievements
- Plans and funds acquisition and development of a world-class regional parks and trails system that attracts 47 million visitors a year.
- Provides affordable housing opportunities for about 6,400 low- and moderate-income households

## How the Council is governed

The Council was established by the Minnesota Legislature in 1967. Our jurisdiction comprises the counties of Anoka, Carver, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, Scott and Washington.

The Council's governing board has 17 members; they are appointed by and serve at the pleasure of the governor. Sixteen members represent geographic districts of roughly equal population across the region. The Council chair, the 17th member, serves at large. The current Council Chair is Susan Haigh, CEO of Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity and a former Ramsey County Commissioner.

The role of Council members is to provide a regional perspective and work toward a regional consensus on issues facing the metropolitan area. All meetings of the Council and its subcommittees are open to the public.

The Council develops, in cooperation with local communities, a Regional Development Framework, a set of policies to guide the efficient growth of the region and help maintain the region's economic competitiveness.

Council staff is organized in four major divisions that focus on: transportation planning; transit operations; wastewater treatment and water supply and quality; and community development. Administrative and service units support all major divisions.

## Major Council accomplishments in 2013-14

- Worked with partners and the public to create Thrive MSP 2040, a long-range vision and plan to ensure the region remains vital, prosperous and competitive long into the future. The plan was adopted in May 2014.
- Led a series of water supply studies, to be completed in 2014 and 2015, to help ensure a sustainable water supply in the region for coming generations.
- Opened service on the METRO Green Line, light rail connecting downtown Minneapolis and downtown Saint Paul. The transit project created 5,445 construction and other jobs.
- Adopted a Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) Strategic Action Plan, approved a TOD policy, and created a TOD office within Metro Transit to lead TOD implementation.

More accomplishments online at [www.metrocouncil.org/accomplishments](http://www.metrocouncil.org/accomplishments)

## Council revenues and expenditures

The Council relies on several funding sources. In 2013, 39% of the Council's revenue came from user fees for wastewater treatment and transit services, and 47% from state and federal funds. About 10% of revenue came from a seven-county property tax and 4% from other sources.

The Council's 2013 budget expenditures totaled \$829.1 million. The operating budget of \$574.3 million (69% of expenditures) covered daily expenses, mostly for regional transit service and wastewater treatment. Debt service (18%) covered payments on the Council's long-term capital bonds and loans. Pass-through funds (13%) came primarily from federal sources (and some state funds) that the Council received and allocated to local governments, agencies, and rental property owners for transportation, housing and other programs.

## For more information

Learn more about the Council at [www.metrocouncil.org](http://www.metrocouncil.org), or call the Council's central offices at 651-602-1000 (TTY 651-291-0904).

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## Edward Reynoso

Metropolitan Council Member, District 9

Edward Reynoso was appointed to the Metropolitan Council by Gov. Mark Dayton in March 2011. Reynoso represents District 9, which includes the Anoka County cities of Andover, Anoka, Bethel, Coon Rapids, East Bethel, Ham Lake, Nowthen, Oak Grove, Ramsey, and St. Francis, and the town of Linwood.

Reynoso brings 20 years of experience representing transportation industry members of the Teamsters Union. Specifically, he has served as the Political Director and Special Projects Coordinator for the Teamsters Joint Council 32 in Minneapolis since 2009. Previously, he worked as a Political Representative for the International Brotherhood of Teamsters Local 63 in Rialto, Cal., from 1991-99, and as National Political Field Representative for the International Brotherhood of Teamsters in Washington, D.C. from 1999-2009.

As a Council member, Reynoso serves on the Environment and Transportation committees.

“One of the top issues facing the region is transportation,” Reynoso said. “Growth in affordable transportation, be it LRT or bus transit, is extremely important.” He also noted that more of a focus on economic development will help ensure a healthy and vibrant region.

Reynoso serves on several community and government organizational boards, including the Governor’s Workforce Development Council, the Workers Compensation Advisory Council, the Minnesota HealthCare Task Force and Governor’s Job Skills Partnership. Reynoso lives in Ham Lake with his wife, Marla. They have two sons, Adam and Adrian, and two daughters, Kristy and Jessica.

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