

# STATE OF MINNESOTA

Executive Department



## Governor Tim Walz

### Executive Order 20-88

#### **Establishing the Governor's Blue Ribbon Committee on the Metropolitan Council's Structure and Services**

**I, Tim Walz, Governor of the State of Minnesota**, by the authority vested in me by the Constitution and applicable statutes, issue the following Executive Order:

The Metropolitan Council is the regional policy-making body, planning agency, and service provider for the Twin Cities metropolitan area, with a mission to foster efficient and economic growth for a prosperous metropolitan region. The Council is tasked with providing critical services in the Twin Cities metropolitan area and bringing communities together to develop a shared vision for the region.

The Metropolitan Council has been serving the Twin Cities metropolitan region for over 50 years and has evolved over time to proactively take on challenges that transcend city and county boundaries in an area that is home to 56% of Minnesota's population. The Metropolitan Council provides essential services and infrastructure, including Metro Transit's bus and rail system, Metro Mobility, Transit Link, wastewater collection and treatment, regional parks and trails, affordable housing, and regional planning. The Metropolitan Council's operations and investments support communities and businesses in the metropolitan region and ensure a high quality of life for its residents.

For the benefit of the Twin Cities area and the entire state, the Metropolitan Council must have the proper tools and appropriate organizational structures to fulfill its statutory obligations and meet the needs of the communities in the region. To ensure that residents and businesses in the Twin Cities region continue to receive the Metropolitan Council's services in the most efficient and equitable manner, I am establishing a Blue Ribbon Committee to evaluate the structure of the Metropolitan Council and the delivery of its statutory responsibilities. The Blue Ribbon Committee will include civic, business, and academic leaders to provide for a broad range of input and expertise.

For these reasons, I order that:

1. The Governor's Blue Ribbon Committee on the Metropolitan Council's Structure and Services ("Committee") is established.

2. The purpose of the Committee is to review:
  - a. The role of elected versus appointed Metropolitan Council members
  - b. The Metropolitan Council's role as a Metropolitan Planning Organization ("MPO") and identify and evaluate the ways this federal designation may complement and conflict with the Council's responsibilities under Minnesota law
  - c. The effectiveness of the delivery of regional transit service
3. The members of the Committee are:
  - a. Mary Liz Holberg, Dakota County Commissioner, District 6, who will serve as Chair of the Committee
  - b. Peter Bell, Director, Schafer Richardson Realty Trust
  - c. Patrick Born, Chair, Board of Directors of the Citizens League
  - d. John (Jay) Cowles, Managing Director, Lawrence Creek, LLC
  - e. James Hovland, Mayor, City of Edina
  - f. Elizabeth Kautz, Mayor, City of Burnsville
  - g. Douglas Loon, President, Minnesota Chamber of Commerce
  - h. Mary Jo McGuire, Ramsey County Commissioner, District 2
  - i. Khani Sahebjam, Chief Strategy Officer, SRF Consulting
  - j. George Schember, Vice President, Cargill Transportation & Logistics
  - k. Alene Tchourumoff, Senior Vice President for Community Development and the Center for Indian Country Development, Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis
  - l. Thomas Weaver, CEO, Achieve Services
  - m. Janet Williams, Mayor of Savage
  - n. Pahoua Yang Hoffman, Senior Vice President, Community Impact, Saint Paul and Minnesota Foundation
  - o. Zhirong (Jerry) Zhao, Professor and Director of the Master of Public Policy Program, University of Minnesota Humphrey School of Public Affairs

4. The Metropolitan Council will provide staffing and administrative support to the Committee.
5. The Committee may accept technical assistance and in-kind services from outside organizations for purposes consistent with the its role and authority.
6. The Committee will submit a report to the Governor with its findings and recommendations by December 31, 2020.

This Executive Order is effective fifteen days after publication in the State Register and filing with the Secretary of State. This Executive Order will remain in effect until the report set forth in paragraph 6 is submitted to the Governor or until it expires in accordance with Minnesota Statutes 2019, section 4.035, subdivision 3.

A determination that any provision of this Executive Order is invalid will not affect the enforceability of any other provision of this Executive Order. Rather, the invalid provision will be modified to the extent necessary so that it is enforceable.

Signed on August 28, 2020.



**Tim Walz**  
Governor

Filed According to Law:



**Steve Simon**  
Secretary of State