



THE METROPOLITAN COUNCIL

Regional Planning & Public Services for the Twin Cities Metro Area

Overview & Mission

Established by the Minnesota Legislature in 1967, the **Metropolitan Council (Met Council)** is the regional policy-making body, economic development catalyst, and planning agency for the seven-county Twin Cities metropolitan area.

Our Mission: To foster efficient and economic growth for a prosperous, sustainable, and equitable metropolitan region.

Core System Divisions

The Met Council's three primary divisions operate regional infrastructure and guide long-range growth:

- **Transportation (Metro Transit & MTS):** Metro Transit operates the region's extensive public bus and light rail network. As the federally designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), Metropolitan Transportation Services (MTS) administers federal transportation funding and coordinates regional transit solutions like Metro Mobility.
- **Environmental Services (MCES):** Collects and treats wastewater for the region, operating seven state-of-the-art treatment plants. MCES protects regional water quality and manages long-term water supply planning while maintaining wastewater treatment rates roughly 40% below the national average.
- **Community Development:** Reviews local municipal comprehensive plans to ensure regional alignment. This division establishes long-range urban growth boundaries (via the Metropolitan Urban Service Area, or MUSA) and coordinates the funding and development of the regional parks and trails system.
 - **Housing (Metro HRA):** Operates the state's largest Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher program, providing low- and moderate-income residents with access to safe, affordable housing throughout many suburban metro counties.

Fast Facts: Our Region By The Numbers

Metric	Detail
Geographic Scope	7 Counties (Anoka, Carver, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, Scott, Washington)
Communities Served	Over 180 cities and townships
Population Guided	Serving more than 3 ¼ million residents (roughly 55% of Minnesota's population)
Founding Year	1967 (Expanded operational capacity via the Metropolitan Reorganization Act of 1994)

Governance & Structure

Unlike traditional localized governments, the Met Council represents a unique model of regional governance designed to solve problems that cross city and county lines.

- **17-Member Board:** Consists of 16 district representatives and one at-large Council Chair.
- **Appointed Governance:** Members are appointed by and serve at the pleasure of the Governor of Minnesota, representing geographic districts of roughly equal population.
- **Tax-Base Sharing:** Administers the Minnesota Fiscal Disparities Program, an innovative tax-base sharing initiative that reduces regional economic inequities by sharing a portion of commercial-industrial property tax growth across municipalities.