

Agency Purpose

The Metropolitan Council is a political subdivision of the state governed by a chairperson and 16 other Council members who are appointed by the Governor. The Council provides a regional perspective and works towards a regional consensus on issues facing the seven-county metropolitan area, comprised of Anoka, Carver, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, Scott, and Washington counties.

The mission of the Metropolitan Council is to develop, in cooperation with local communities, a comprehensive regional planning framework, focusing on transportation, wastewater, parks, and aviation systems that guide the efficient growth of the metropolitan area. The Council operates transit and wastewater services and administers housing and other grant programs.

At a Glance

Metropolitan Council Operations:

- 3,703 employees (FTE)
- \$738 million CY 2010 unified operating budget: \$519 million in operating expenditures, \$78 million pass-thru grants and loans and \$141 million debt service

Community Development Functions:

- Develop new Regional Development Framework to guide the efficient growth of the region
- \$14 million in Livable Communities grants
- Over 38 million visits a year to 55,000 acre regional park system
- 6,700 households receive rent assistance through the Metropolitan Housing and Redevelopment Authority

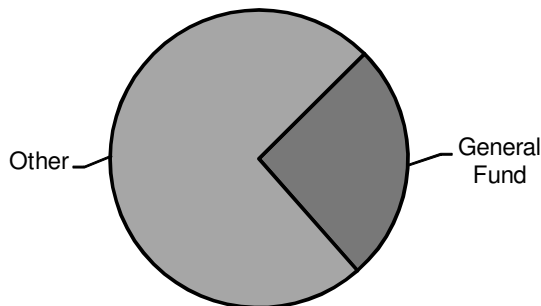
Transportation Functions:

- \$378 million CY 2010 operating budget (\$120 million FY 2010-11 biennial state General Fund appropriation)
- \$160 million annual projected motor vehicle sales tax (MVST) (\$21 million is committed to Suburban Transit Association Providers) in calendar year 2010
- Nearly 89 million rides in 2009

Environmental Services Functions:

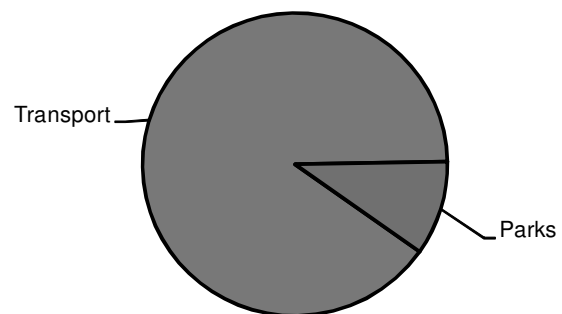
- \$120 million CY 2010 operating budget
- Average of 235 million gallons of wastewater treated daily

Est. FY 2010-11 Expenditures by Fund



Source: MAPS Local and federal funding not included.

Est. FY 2010-11 Expenditures by Program



Source: MAPS Data (excludes local funding sources).

Strategies

Core Functions

The Council's main functions are:

- providing a planning framework for regional growth and conducting long-range planning for regional transportation, wastewater, and parks systems;
- operating the regional transit system;
- operating and funding the regional wastewater system;
- coordinating system-wide planning and capital improvement funding for the regional parks system; and
- operating a regional housing and redevelopment authority that provides assistance to low-income families in the region.

Key Goals

- Accommodate growth within the metropolitan area by working collaboratively with our partners
- Maximize the effectiveness and value of regional services, infrastructure investments and incentives
- Enhance transportation choices and improve the ability of Minnesotans to travel safely and efficiently throughout the region
- Preserve vital natural areas and resources for future generations

Operations

The Council is organized into staff divisions that focus on community development, the environment, and transportation, supported by administrative and service units.

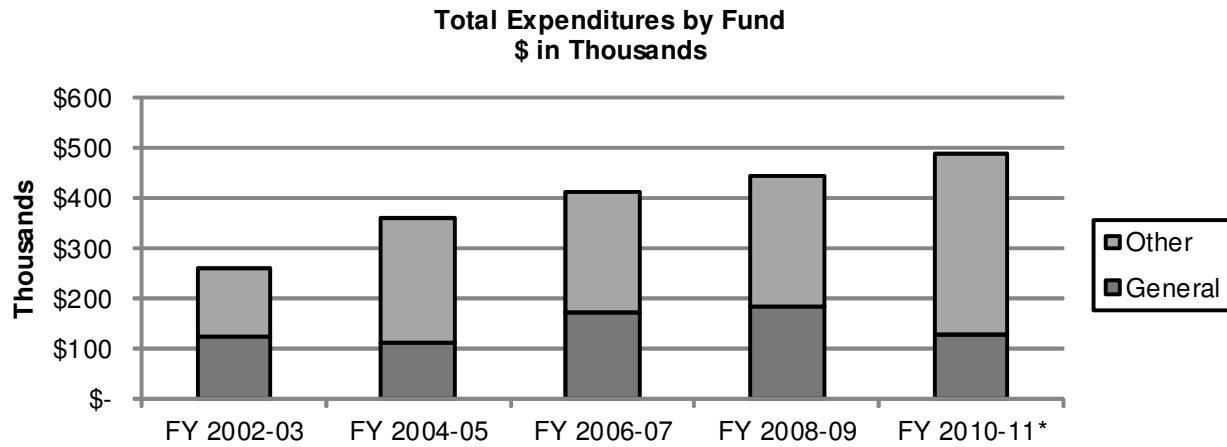
The **Community Development Division** provides regional planning and local planning assistance to communities, and conducts research to support its planning functions. The division administers the Metropolitan Livable Communities Act, which provides grants to eligible communities to help them clean up polluted sites, expand housing choices, and develop projects that use land and infrastructure more efficiently. The division administers planning and grants for the regional park system. It also delivers rent assistance and provides affordable housing to low-income households through the Metropolitan Housing and Redevelopment Authority.

The **Environmental Services Division** maintains approximately 600 miles of regional sewers and treats an average of 235 million gallons of wastewater daily at seven regional treatment plants. The division recently has maintained perfect compliance with clean water discharge permits, and in 2009, all Council treatment plants received awards for operations from the National Association of Clean Water Agencies. Wastewater services are fully fee funded, and the rates are well below the national average. In addition, the division works with approximately 800 industrial clients in the metro area to reduce pollution and provides water resources and water supply planning and analysis for the entire region.

The **Transportation Division** is responsible for providing transit services in the region. The division operates Metro Transit, the region's largest transit provider, with nearly 66.4 million bus rides in 2009. Metro Transit operates the Hiawatha Light Rail, which had over 9.9 million rides in 2009, and began NorthStar operations in November 2009. The division also provides Metro Mobility, the region's Americans with Disabilities paratransit service, and manages contracted regular route and dial-a-ride services. It also acts as a liaison with suburban transit authority providers and other regional transit services. The combined ridership for these services reached nearly 89 million in 2009. The Council's transit functions are funded by state General Fund dollars, Motor Vehicle Sales Tax (MVST), federal revenue, and fares.

The Council also serves as the federally designated Metropolitan Planning Organization and manages the allocation of federal transportation funds. In this role, the Transportation Division provides regional transportation planning including aviation, highway, and transit systems. Every four years it develops and updates the 20 - year regional transportation plan, and annually produces the federally required three- year Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for the metropolitan area.

Budget Trends Section



Source data for the previous chart is the Minnesota Accounting and Procurement System (MAPS).

The primary external factors impacting Metropolitan Council operations are the current economic conditions. The slowdown in development has reduced collection of Service Availability Charges used to fund debt service on the system’s reserve capacity. Low consumer confidence levels has impacted motor vehicle sales tax collections and increased the risk associated with the highly volatile revenue source. Heavy reliance on energy and chemicals in daily operations can have a significant impact on budgets with minor cost fluctuations.

Contact

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