

Metropolitan Council Governance

September 13, 2023



Background

- 2011 OLA Report: *Governance of Transit in the Twin Cities Region*
- Focus on transit
- Governance a key issue

Key Governance Finding:

“The Metropolitan Council’s role as the regional transit planner has been hampered by how members are appointed; as a result of its structure, the Council lacks adequate credibility and accountability among stakeholders.”

Principles of Effective Governance

Accountability	Equity
Consensus Building	Flexibility
Credibility	Stability
Effectiveness	Strategic Vision
	Transparency

Governance Challenges

Challenge	Governance Principle
Complexity of system	Unclear accountability Reduced effectiveness
Distrust among parties	Hard to build consensus Lack of credibility
Time-consuming coordination	Lack of transparency Inefficient
Appointed, rather than elected	Limited accountability Reduced credibility

Governance Options

Status Quo	No Change
Option 1	Staggered terms; appointed members
Option 2	Staggered terms; mix of appointed and elected members
Option 3	Staggered terms; County Commissioners as members
Option 4	Members directly elected

Option 1: Staggered Terms; Appointed Members

Pro	Con
Some independence from Governor	Little accountability to the public
Council stability and continuity	Little credibility with key stakeholders
Regional perspective	

Option 2: Staggered Terms; Appointed and Elected Members

Pro	Con
Independence from Governor	Voting weights and representation TBD
Council stability and continuity	Possible increased workload for elected officials
Regional and local perspectives	
Increased accountability	
Increased credibility	

Option 3: Staggered Terms; County Commissioners as Members

Pro	Con
Independence from Governor	Voting weights and representation TBD
Council stability and continuity	Possible increased workload for elected officials
Increased accountability	Parochial considerations
Increased credibility	

Option 4: Members Directly Elected

Pro	Con
Independence from Governor	Representation decisions
Increased accountability	Parochial considerations
Increased credibility	

OLA Recommended Staggered Terms with Appointed and Elected Members

- Encourages consensus building
- Increases structural credibility
- Provides stability
- Offers some independence
- Promotes regional perspective
- Promotes local perspective

Other Regional Entities

- Metropolitan Airports Commission (MAC)
- Metropolitan Mosquito Control District
- Department of Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation

Other Regional Entities

Metropolitan Council

- Public corporation and political subdivision
- Chair on Governor's Cabinet
- 17 members:
 - 16 Governor appointees
 - Chair appointed by Governor
 - Subject to advice and consent of Senate

Airports Commission

- Public corporation
- Not on Governor's Cabinet
- 15 members:
 - 12 Governor appointees
 - Mayor of Minneapolis*
 - Mayor of St. Paul*
 - Chair appointed by Governor

*Mayors may appoint a qualified voter in their place

Mosquito Control

- District/Commission
- Not on Governor's Cabinet
- 18 members:
 - All county commissioners
 - Appointed by their respective boards

Other Regional Entities

Metropolitan Council

- **Public corporation and political subdivision**
- **Chair on Governor's Cabinet**
- **17 members:**
 - **16 Governor appointees**
 - **Chair appointed by Governor**
 - **All subject to advice and consent of Senate**

Department of Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation

- **Executive branch agency**
- **Commissioner on Governor's Cabinet**
- **Subject to advice and consent of Senate**
- **IRRR Board:**
 - **State Senators (TA)**
 - **State Representatives (TA)**
 - **One other state senator**

(TA) = Taconite Assistance Area

Questions?

www.auditor.leg.state.mn.us