

Subject Transit consolidation

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## Overview

This bill directs consolidation of most transit service in the Twin Cities metropolitan area, including to:

- make the Metropolitan Council the exclusive comprehensive transit provider beginning July 1, 2027;
- require development of an implementation plan for transit consolidation;
- set consolidation requirements;
- create a task force to advise on implementation planning and activities; and
- require a study of transit service in areas currently served by the suburban transit providers (i.e., opt-outs).

Effective the day after enactment.

## Summary

Section	Description
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1	<b>[Adds § 473.376] Unified comprehensive transit.</b>
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Sets limitations and requirements on consolidated transit service.

**Subd. 1. Metropolitan Council authority.** Establishes that the Metropolitan Council is the exclusive transit operator in the Twin Cities metropolitan area.

**Subd. 2. Local governmental unit authority.** Prevents local units of government from expending funds for transit in the Twin Cities metropolitan area, except by agreement with the Metropolitan Council.

**Subd. 3. Application.** Sets out the scope of consolidation requirements, which includes (1) specifying an implementation timeline so that consolidated transit begins July 1, 2027, and (2) exempting the University of Minnesota from the transit services limitations.

Section	Description
2	<p><b>Service areas.</b></p> <p>Makes a conforming change.</p>
3	<p><b>Expiration.</b></p> <p>Sets a sunset of June 30, 2027, on a provision for financial assistance and levy authority for suburban transit providers (i.e., the opt-outs).</p>
4	<p><b>Consolidated metropolitan area transit implementation.</b></p> <p>Establishes requirements governing the implementation of transit consolidation.</p> <p><b>Subd. 1. Definitions.</b> Defines terms for the section.</p> <p><b>Subd. 2. Implementation requirements.</b> Directs the Metropolitan Council to implement transit consolidation and make efforts to continue existing contracts and transit service for at least one year following the consolidation.</p> <p><b>Subd. 3. Implementation plan.</b> Directs the council to create an implementation plan for the transit consolidation, in consultation with a task force being created elsewhere in this section. Specifies required plan contents, including: analysis of needed activities for the consolidation; substantially similar transit coverage for at least one year, with exceptions; analysis of route modifications; and assessment of impacts to ridership, existing agreements, and staffing.</p> <p><b>Subd. 4. Task force; establishment.</b> Directs the council to convene a Transit Consolidation Task Force to advise on the consolidation implementation process.</p> <p><b>Subd. 5. Task force; membership; chair.</b> Provides for task force membership, appointments by August 15, 2026, and selection of officers.</p> <p><b>Subd. 6. Task force; meetings.</b> Sets task force meeting requirements. Explicitly makes the task force subject to the Open Meeting Law.</p> <p><b>Subd. 7. Task force; duties.</b> Specifies task force duties, including to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ assist the council in consolidation implementation plan development;</li><li>▪ review and comment on implementation activities; and</li><li>▪ develop a draft legislative proposal on changes for the consolidation.</li></ul> <p><b>Subd. 8. Task force; administration.</b> Provides for administrative support and assistance to the task force. Authorizes task force member compensation. Provides for member removal by the appointing authority.</p>

Section	Description
	<p><b>Subd. 9. Report.</b> Requires a legislative report by February 1, 2027, jointly from the council and the task force. Specifies report contents.</p> <p><b>Subd. 10. Resources.</b> Allows the council to use funds designated for financial assistance to opt-outs for costs of the task force and implementation plan development.</p> <p><b>Subd. 11. Task force; expiration.</b> Makes the task force expire July 1, 2027.</p>
5	<p><b>Transit service enhancement study.</b></p> <p>Directs the Metropolitan Council to do a study on bus service enhancement in opt-out communities. Specifies study contents, which includes identifying and prioritizing additional bus service lines. Requires a legislative report on the study by February 1, 2028.</p>



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