

The St. Cloud Metro Bus Rider Advisory Committee (RAC) held a meeting off-site on Tuesday, January 19, 2021 at 10:00 am to speak about schedule changes, the farebox update, the Jolly Trolley event update, and several clarifying questions.

The following individuals attended: Ryan Daniel, Michael Kedrowski, Nate Ramacher, Ben Paulson, Keshia Anderson-King, David Williamsen, Paul Thomas, Vicki Johnson, Kellen Rasmussen, Jan Scott, and Kelly Carlson. Absent: Jenny Svihel, Bruce Benner.

Welcome. Mike thanked everyone for coming and reviewed the purpose of the RAC. He will officially take over the running of the RAC meetings from Ryan, who will now act in a supporting role.

Public Open Forum.

- 1) Open Discussion. There were no members of the public present.

Old Business.

- 1) No old business was declared.

New Business.

- 1) Ridership Update (Mike)
 - a. Relatively stable compared to last month.
 - b. Still lower because of the pandemic.
 - c. Ridership will be adjusted according to public's need and possible overcrowding of buses during this time.
- 2) Jolly Trolley Food Update (Nate)
 - a. Collected \$2,580.00 in donations and 6,440 lbs. of food.
 - i. Less money, far more food this year than in the past.
 - b. Will be split between Catholic Charities, Promise Neighborhood of Central MN, and Salvation Army.
- 3) Schedule Changes Update (Mike)
 - a. Route 6, 10, 12, 21 and 31 are all unaffected.
 - b. 7 is suspended until further notice.
 - c. Dial-A-Ride is unaffected as well.
 - d. All other routes run on an hourly basis.
- 4) Farebox Update (Mike, Ryan)
 - a. We are currently working on installing operator COVID shields on all buses— after this is complete, we will collect fares.
 - b. Anticipated to be 30-60 days from now.
 - c. Metro Bus will give the public at least a 30-day notice.
 - i. The reason for delay in renewing fare collection is because there are many contracts by vendors requested such a change for their transportation in light of the pandemic.

Open discussion:

- 1) When will fares increase (answered by Ryan)?
 - a. No talks right now of fare increases.
- 2) How long will the bus hours schedule change be in effect (answered by Ryan)?

- a. In order to maintain essential services, this schedule change was necessary.
 - b. The public's best interest is in mind.
 - i. Public is advised to follow CDC guidelines as much as possible during this time (masks, social distancing, etc.).
- 3) What should a passenger do if presented with an unsafe environment on a bus (answered by Ryan)?
- a. Speak to bus operator about the situation
 - i. The operator will then involve a Street Supervisor for safety issues.
 - 1. Police will be involved if necessary.

Questions to be addressed by Mike in February 2021:

- 1) What should be done if a passenger has purchased a firearm and has it in a box? May they take it on the bus?
- 2) Some bus shelters do not have the updated hourly time schedule, causing confusion. What is Metro Bus going to do about this?

Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 10:40 am.