

The St. Cloud Metro Bus Rider Advisory Committee (RAC) held a meeting off-site on Tuesday, February 16, 2021 at 10:00 am to speak about ridership updates, the new federal mask mandate, the farebox update, and several clarifying questions.

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

Welcome. Mike thanked everyone for coming and reviewed the purpose of the RAC.

Public Open Forum.

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

Old Business.

- 1) Metro Bus Firearm Policy (Mike, Ryan)
 - a. Cased firearms are allowed.
 - b. Those with permits to conceal-and-carry are allowed and are likewise asked to keep their firearms cased and/or out of sight so as not to frighten other passengers.
- 2) Bus Shelter update of time schedules (Mike)
 - a. Don't have an update at this point in time, will work on this in the next month.

New Business.

- 1) Ridership Update (Mike)
 - a. First full month of reduced service.
 - i. Numbers are still down but stable.
 - ii. We're still providing ridership daily for all.
 - b. Since the number of riders on each bus increases at certain times of the day, then wearing a mask is important in light of the COVID situation.
 - c. DAR ridership is up.
 - i. This is due to additional service days over last month.
 - d. Connex is still performing well.
- 2) Federal Mask Mandate (Mike)
 - a. Face shields are no longer compliant with the federal mask mandate.
 - b. Instead, face masks that cover mouth and nose are the standard.
 - c. Our goal is to get everyone to their destinations safely, not to enforce the law.
 - i. Encourage other riders to use face coverings.
- 3) Farebox Update (Mike)
 - a. No firm dates as of yet.
 - b. Once we start this promotional period, there will be:
 - i. 2 weeks before fare implementation.
 - ii. 2 weeks after fare implementation.
 - c. During the promotional period, it will not cost anything to get a SmartCard.
 - i. After, it will cost \$3.00 per card.
 - ii. Since the SmartCard is sturdier and made of plastic, it is expected to last years.
 - d. RAC is requested to help volunteer to show others how to use SmartCard at certain times of day.

Open discussion:

- 1) Rider access to bus (Mike)
 - a. Initially decided by driver, rider can ask for different door for access getting on/off bus.
 - i. Aimed at protecting those who need to use the ramp or would otherwise encounter environmental obstacles.
- 2) Speed limit change discussion discussed by the APO (Vicki)
 - a. To 25 mph instead of 30 mph for safety reasons with pedestrians.
 - b. Mike will keep us updated of Metro Bus policy.
- 3) Other Metro Bus departments sitting in on the RAC meetings to provide additional context (Mike)
 - a. Future possibility to explore.

Questions to be addressed by Mike in March 2021:

- 1) Bus Shelter update of time schedules

Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 10:40 am.