

The St. Cloud Metro Bus Rider Advisory Committee (RAC) held a meeting at the Mobility Training Center on Tuesday December 21st, 2021 at 10:00 am to speak about a ridership update, updates about the Jolly Trolley Food Drive, highlights from the Metro Bus newsletter and various other questions.

The following individuals attended: Ryan Daniel, Michael Kedrowski, Kellen Rasmussen, Bruce Benner, and Vicki Johnson. Absent: Keshia Anderson-King, Jenny Svihel, Kelly Carlson, Paul Thomas and 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: None

New Business:

1) Ridership Update

- a. Over all ridership was down across all routes.
 - i. The largest decrease was route 22, at 29%
 - ii. Next was route 4 at 21%.
- b. Connex had an increase in ridership of 2%.
 - i. There were still over 1000 rides provided
- c. Northstar Link had a 3% increase.
- d. Dial-a-Ride also had a 2% increase.

2) Jolly Trolley Results

- a. Donations hit a new record this year
 - i. 7,400 pounds of food was collected
 - ii. \$1776 was raised
- b. Since the first food drive, the Jolley Trolley has collected over 42,000 pounds of food and over \$25,000 in donations.

3) Newsletter Highlights

- i. Mike provided copies of the Metro Bus Employee Newsletter to RAC members to provide insight into happenings at Metro Bus and detailed upcoming plans and year in review.
- ii. A major highlight from the newsletter was how nationwide ridership plummeted anywhere from 60-80% nationwide, to where Metro Bus ridership had only decreased around 27%.

4) Open Discussion:

a. Free Ride Coupons

- i. But Metro bus will no longer be distributing them.
- ii. Coupons were previously given to customers who completed travel training and other outreach activities in the past.
- iii. Coupons will also allow for a 2 hour transfer even though we no longer print transfer tickets.
- iv. New form of coupons or free rides will most likely be distributed as 2-Ride Cards.

b. APO Regional Transportation Survey Update – Vicki Johnson

- i. 856 households participated
 1. The survey looked into where people go, how they use transit and the trips they make.
- ii. Responses assist with building and utilizing a more successful transit system.
- iii. Popular responses were:
 1. More stops
 2. More frequent service
- iv. Vicki will provide more results in February or March as more responses are tabulated.

5) Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 10:34 am.