

The St. Cloud Metro Bus Rider Advisory Committee (RAC) held a virtual meeting via WebEx on Tuesday April 19th, 2022 at 10:00 am to speak about a ridership update, hear about the local bus roadeo, hear about Ryan’s trip to Washington D.C., and various other questions.

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

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: Review of March Minutes.

New Business:

- 1) Ridership Update
 - a. Ridership was up about 16% on average across all routes.
 - i. The largest increase was route 10, at 22%
 - ii. Routes 3, 4, and 21 were also up at least 20%.
 - iii. Route 11 had the smallest increase of only 2.5%.
 - b. Connex had an increase in ridership of 16%, equating to nearly 200 more trips taken.
 - c. Northstar Link had an increase of 28.5%!
 - i. Nearly 250 more rides were taken in the month of March.
 - d. Dial a ride surpassed 11,000 rides.
- 2) Local Bus Roadeo:
 - a. Metro Bus will be hosting its annual Bus Roadeo at SCSU’s K lot near Herb Brooks arena.
 - b. The event is May 19, starting around 12 P.M
 - c. Drivers will compete against each other in skills competitions to earn a spot to represent Metro Bus at the State Roadeo!
 - i. There are representatives for both Dial-a-Ride and Fixed Route.
 - d. State Roadeo will be July 16th in Austin, MN.
 - e. Attendance is encouraged to help cheer on your favorite bus operators! The event is free for all!
- 3) Topic TBD
 - a. On April 6th, Ryan was one of several testifying before the Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Subcommittee on Housing, Transportation and Community Development on “Advancing Public Transportation in Small Cities and Rural Places under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.”

- b. Senator Smith invited Ryan to discuss how the dollars allocated for Minnesota can be equitably distributed in regards to small cities and transportation networks.
 - c. Challenges were discussed in regards to sharing funds and how to improve facilities and buses throughout the state.
- 4) Open Discussion:
- a. Mask Mandate has been lifted as of April 18th.
 - i. Masks are no longer required on Metro Bus buses or facilities
 - b. Meeting will most likely be in person next month, details will be sent out with the meeting packet
 - c. Safety concerns downtown were brought up with unruly individuals
 - i. It was addressed to not approach anyone and report when you noticed the behavior to customer service, so they can be looked into.
- 5) Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 10:19 am.