

The St. Cloud Metro Bus Rider Advisory Committee (RAC) held an in-person meeting at the Mobility Training Center and streamed simultaneously on WebEx on Tuesday December 20th, 2022, at 10:04 AM. The meeting was held to speak about a ridership update, discuss updates about changes to the ConneX, hear about the APO's long-range surface transportation plan (Metropolitan Transportation Plan or MTP) discuss how the Jolly Trolley went, and various other questions.

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

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

Public Open Forum.

- 1) Kris with David F. Day apartments was in attendance via the phone and addressed concerns about social isolation with senior citizens if they are unable to ride or access fixed route services. It was recommended to include their building in fixed route service. As the Route 32 develops, she would like to see a Troop Avenue stop. They are located off 22nd St. it will be greatly beneficial to help their residents not have to walk very far or plan with Dial-a-Ride etc. to connect with fixed routes. Michael mentioned the board meeting may be a good time to discuss this concern as well. This concern will be factored into the discussion when implementing a new route for Sartell.

Old Business:

- 1) RAC Emails - None
- 2) Review of October Minutes - The meeting was held to speak about a ridership update, ConneX transition to fixed route, operators running behind schedule and the Jolly Trolley.
- 3) ConneX Update – Michael informed the RAC Committee about various ways to address any questions about updates with the ConneX. The plan is not finalized, and details are unable to be shared at this time, it is also acceptable to say you do not know.

New Business:

- 1) Ridership Update- Ridership declined 7% in November, as compared to the month of October.
 - a. Routes 8, 9, 22 and 31 all saw decreases.
 - i. Route 22 had the largest, with 20%.
 - b. The only route with an increase was route 21, with 2%.
 - c. The ConneX was down 2%, with 1,016 rides provided.
 - d. The Northstar link saw a decline of 21%, with only 849 rides.
 - e. Dial a ride recorded just short of 11,000 rides, with a total of 10,857.

2) **APO Long Range Plan Discussion** – Vicki Johnson

- a. Saint Cloud APO Senior Transportation Planner Vicki Johnson presented on updates to the APO's long-range surface transportation plan (Metropolitan Transportation Plan or MTP). She provided a brief overview of the APO and its responsibilities as an agency. Vicki discussed the 2021 outreach effort APO staff conducted to find out what was working well or what needed improvement in terms of the St. Cloud area transportation network. From those comments received, she and APO staff were able to propose the following six themes:
 - i. System and Environmental Stewardship: Protecting and preserving our existing infrastructure and environmental assets.
 - ii. Multimodal Connections: Providing a safe and equitable multimodal transportation network affordable for people of all ages and abilities to travel using their preferred modal choice.
 - iii. Congestion Management: Mindfully planning, developing, and operating an innovative transportation network to minimize unnecessary travel delays.
 - iv. Transportation Safety: Reducing fatalities and serious injuries by planning, designing, and building safe infrastructure and improving driving behavior.
 - v. Interregional Connections: Supporting an economically vibrant region through developing and preserving vital connections to other state, national, and global centers of commerce.
 - vi. Technological Advancements: Understanding and planning for future innovative transportation technologies and encouraging their presence and incorporation into the region's existing transportation network.
- b. These themes, if approved, will be the APO's vision for designing/improving the region's surface transportation infrastructure between now and 2050. Vicki asked if RAC members had any questions or if they felt she and/or APO staff might have missed something.

3) **Jolly Trolley Update**

- a. There was 9,820 pounds of food collected and \$4,164.80 in cash donations.
- b. The supplies will be donated to the St. Cloud Area Salvation Army, Catholic Charities Emergency Services, and Promise Neighborhood of Central Minnesota.
- c. In its 12-year history, the Jolly Trolley has collected over 55,000 pounds of food and over \$29,000 for area charities.
 - i. It was also suggested/recommended to possibly expand non-profit partnerships in future years.

4) Open Discussion:

- a. Accessibility to schools was addressed, regarding connecting students if they are unable to ride the school bus.
 - i. Safe Routes to School are aspects to be looked into when working on the APO's Long Range Plan as well as for Metro Bus.
- b. Questions were fielded about weather conditions and bus stop maintenance.
 - i. All stops with concerns should be reported to customer service to receive attention.
 - ii. Metro bus maintains stops as best as they can, however not all stops can be taken care of in the event a major snowfall occurs.
 - iii. Michael will work to provide more information at next month's meeting.
- c. George brought up his observation with Ranger issues, and Michael informed the group that they are being replaced and updated throughout the fleet.

5) Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 10:55 AM.