

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 February 21st, 2023, at 10:06 AM. The meeting was held to discuss the most recent updates about Route 32, hear about a ridership update, discuss the Public Title VI Equity Analysis public meetings and various other questions.

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

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

Public Open Forum.

- 1) None

Old Business:

- 1) RAC Emails - None
- 2) Review of January Minutes - The meeting last month was held to speak bus stop maintenance, discuss more updates about changes to the ConneX, hear about a ridership update, discuss winter weather safety, hear about what goes into service requests, and various other questions.
- 3) Route 32/ConneX
 - a. Effective Sunday, May 7, Metro Bus Fixed Route 32 will resume service in Sartell. A map of the full route showing the area and locations served as well as connection points to Routes 22 and 31 was discussed.
 - i. The map is posted by several media outlets as well as the metrobus website at: https://ridemetrobus.com/?post_type=post&p=7278.
 - b. Route 32 will serve the following locations: Sartell Medical Center, CentraCare Plaza, Coborn's Marketplace, City Hall, Sartell High School, Oak Ridge Elementary School (bus stop on Pinecone Road), Riverside Plaza, Sartell Mobile Home Park, Country Manor.
 - c. Printed and digital versions of the full schedule will be available Monday, April 3.
 - d. Route 32 will hub from the Sartell Walmart and run hourly from 6 AM – 7 PM on weekdays and 9 AM – 4 PM on weekends. The Route will form an hourly loop through Sartell and return to Walmart each hour. The Route will also serve the Sartell High School three times each weekday.
 - e. Fixed Route fare of \$1.25 will apply for Route 32.
 - f. Individuals paying a fare with the Metro Bus Smart Ride Card are automatically credited with two hours of free travel from that time anywhere on the Fixed Route system.
 - i. Free transfers are only available when using the Smart Ride Card. Metro Bus offers reduced fare on Fixed Routes during off-peak times for individuals with disabilities and seniors aged 65 and older.

1. Customers must show proof of qualification such as a photo ID with date of birth, Metro Bus Freedom Card or Dial-a-Ride ID, Medicare Card, or other appropriate ID.

New Business:

- 1) Ridership Update- The month of January saw increases over December.
 - a. Routes 8 and 11 saw increases of over 20%.
 - i. Several others saw ridership up from 5-10%.
 - b. Routes 9 and 33 saw decreases of around 5%.
 - c. The Northstar Link ridership was down, with around a 40% decrease.
 - d. ConneX saw an increase of 15% with 160 more trips provided.
 - e. Dial a ride remained steady with 11,692 trips provided.
 - i. Several days recorded over 500 trips in a day.
- 2) Public Title VI Equity Analysis Meeting
 - a. Metro Bus held public Title VI equity analysis meetings on Thursday, February 16 from 1-3 PM and again from 5-7 PM at the Waite Park City Hall.
 - i. The meetings addressed the potential impact of locations of land Metro Bus is considering purchasing for a future transit hub in the western part of the Metro Bus service area.
 - ii. The Title VI equity analysis is undertaken regarding where a project is located or sited to ensure the location is selected without regard to race, color or national origin.
 - b. Community members were encouraged to attend the meetings and share feedback related to the area being considered pertaining to equity and in accordance with Title 49 CFR Section 21.9(b)(3).
 - c. The meetings are intended to engage public input specifically from persons potentially impacted by the siting of the facilities.
- 3) Open Discussion
 - a. Jenny visited Self-advocacy day at the State Capital on February 14th, in relation to transit awareness and accessibility for those who need it.
 - b. On February 9th, there was a St. Cloud Day at the State Capital and some of the local and state representatives met with Ryan and many others public officials from the St. Cloud area.
 - c. At the end of the month, there will be an additional event in which the Minnesota Public Transit Association will attend and Ryan is President of the Association. Ryan and other individuals from MPTA will talk transit and keep transit on the forefront of opportunities for future funding opportunities.
 - d. Additionally, Ryan and others will attend similar events in Washington DC advocating for transit in March.
- 4) Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 10:36 AM.