

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 April 18th, 2023, at 10:07 AM. The meeting was held to discuss ridership updates, discuss Route 32 and its schedule release as well as various other questions.

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

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 February Minutes - The meeting was held to discuss ridership updates, weather related melt/refreezing near bus stops, discuss updates regarding Route 32 and the future Western Transit Hub as well as various other questions.

New Business:

- 1) Ridership Update - March saw many increases over February.
  - a. The Northstar Link saw the largest increase month over month, with over 1,165 rides provided.
  - b. All routes saw increases, Routes 6 and 21 being among the highest with increases near 20%.
  - c. Route 11 saw the lowest change but still had over 250 more passengers than the previous month.
  - d. ConneX had 1,170 passengers and roughly a 13% increase.
  - e. Dial a ride remains strong, with a total of 12,860 rides.
    - i. Increased ridership may mean longer wait times and difficulty if scheduling a ride.
    - ii. Please be patient and know that we always do what we can to provide the best service we can.
  - f. Additionally, Kiesha asked about how ridership trends tend to go toward the summer months, especially with the U-Go free program.
    - i. The program should be returning this coming summer, and Michael will make an announcement once it is known whether the program will return or not.
    - ii. Kiesha mentioned several families and students are interested in the program and questioned how the transfer system worked as well as disbursement of cards.

- iii. Ryan mentioned that applications should be available all participating locations and community partners after details are sorted out.
- iv. Travel training is available through the Mobility Center.
  - 1. It is advisable to come between 9-3 on weekdays, and outside appointments may be available on a case-by-case basis.
- v. Cards will most likely be issued as they had in years past.
  - 1. The program is open to school aged kids.
- a. Route 32 Updates
  - i. The route and schedule are now live at [ridemetrobus.com](http://ridemetrobus.com) as well as having schedules on all buses.
  - ii. Schedules are also being placed at locations all around the area that have information/schedule racks.
  - iii. Route 32 will run hourly and hub out of the Wal-Mart shelter and will service the Highschool in Sartell 3 times a day.
    - 1. When the route deviates to the Sartell Highschool a portion of the route is not serviced which would be anything across the river which would be Country Manor and stops along 1st St NE.
  - iv. There are several transfer points connecting with route 31, and at Country Manor there is a connection with Route 22/21.

### Open Discussion

- 1) Bus Roadeo - The annual Metro Bus Local Roadeo will be held May 18th at SCSU's K lot.
  - a) Metro Bus operators both from Fixed Route and Dial-a-Ride will compete in various skills competitions and the best times advance to the State Roadeo in Rochester!
  - b) This day can be fun for our operators and if anyone from the public is available to attend all are welcome.
  - c) Stay tuned and mark your calendars for May 18th!

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 10:42 AM.