

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 May 16th, 2023, at 10:06 AM. The meeting was held to discuss ridership updates, the Metro Bus Roadeo, highlight the upcoming U-Go Free Program as well as various other questions.

The following individuals attended: Michael Kedrowski, Ryan Daniel, Bruce Benner, Keshia Anderson-King, Paul Thomas, Jan Scott & David Williamsen. Absent: Vicki Johnson, 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 April Minutes - The meeting was held to discuss ridership updates, discuss Route 32 and its schedule release as well as various other questions.

New Business:

- 1) Ridership Update - All routes saw a decline from March, but there were still over 53,000 rides provided on fixed routes.
 - a. Dial-a-Ride provided 11,600 rides.
 - i. Increased ridership on Dial-a-Ride may cause longer wait times and less available times for scheduling passenger rides.
 - ii. Please be patient and know that we always do what we can to provide the best service we can.
 - b. The ConneX saw a slight decline going from 1170 to 940 rides.
 - i. Route 32 has resumed in Sartell starting May 7th, and the ConneX service was discontinued May 6th.
- 2) Bus Roadeo - The annual Metro Bus Local Roadeo will be held Thursday, May 18 at the St. Cloud State University (SCSU) K-Lot next to the Herb Brooks National Hockey Center.
 - a. Metro Bus Operators will compete for top honors at the Local Bus Roadeo scheduled to start at noon.
 - b. The competition is free to watch and open to the public.
 - c. The Bus Roadeo is a chance for Bus Operators in both Fixed Route and Dial-a-Ride divisions to showcase their driving skills.
 - d. Operators are scored on their ability to navigate a timed obstacle course comprised of orange road cones, an acceleration requirement and other tests mimicking real-life driving scenarios.
 - e. Metro Bus has held Local Bus Roadeo competitions since 1986.
 - f. The top finishers in each division qualify to compete in the Minnesota Statewide Bus Roadeo to be held in July in Rochester, MN.
 - g. Top finishers at the state level are also eligible to compete in their respective national/international competition.
- 3) U Go Free! - Metro Bus is preparing to help kids get to their activities for FREE with the U-Go Free Summer Youth Program.

- a. The U-Go Free Program allows kids ages 17 and younger to have free, unlimited rides on all Metro Bus Fixed Routes from June 1 to August 31.
 - b. The program does not require registration or a pass.
 - c. Resources for U-Go Free Summer Youth Program participants:
 - i. U-Go Free rack cards - print versions available on buses and at many community schedule outlets, PDF, and print versions by request.
 - ii. Free Travel Training (available to anyone who would like to learn how to navigate the Metro Bus system).
 - iii. How-to-Ride videos on the Metro Bus website.
- 4) Open Discussion
- a. Michael highlighted a prestigious honor that Metro Bus's CEO Ryan Daniel has been nominated for:
 - i. Ryan Daniel has been named as one of 10 honorees for the 2023 Most Admired CEOs by Minneapolis/St. Paul Business Journal.
 - ii. He was selected for his exemplary qualities of leadership and diligence which he uses to direct the agency through the challenges of delivering public transportation the St Cloud region.
 - iii. A reception recognizing Mr. Daniel's to the company and the community, along with the other honorees, will be held Wednesday, September 20, 2023, at Quincy Hall in Minneapolis.
- 5) Next Meeting – June 20th 10 AM here at the Mobility Training Center and virtually

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 10:38 AM