

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 October 17th, 2023, at 10:05 AM. The meeting was held to discuss ridership updates, hear updates about Metro Bus's Long Range Transit Plan, discuss the Metro bus Forward Survey, and receive an end of the fiscal year update, as well as various other questions.

The following individuals attended: Michael Kedrowski, Jenny Svihel, Vicki Johnson, David Williamsen, Kelly Carlson, and Paul Thomas. **Absent:** Kiesha Anderson-King, Jan Scott & Bruce Benner.

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 June Minutes - The meeting was held to discuss ridership updates, hear updates about Metro Bus's Long Range Transit Plan, discuss changes to the Northstar Link, get updates about the migration from WebEx to Microsoft Teams, as well as various other questions.

New Business:

- 1) Ridership Update
  - a. Route 32 has been seeing increases each month and provided 619 rides.
  - b. Most other routes saw a 5-10% decrease, with the exception of route 11, which was up 5%.
  - c. Ridership has been relatively steady each month if all months contained the same amount of comparable days.
  - d. Dial-a-Ride provided nearly 12,000 rides.
  - e. The Northstar link had 1075 rides.
- 2) Long Range Plan Updates – The Long-Range Transit Plan Update (Metro Bus Forward) initiative continues to move along.
  - a. Surveyors were on uses last month collecting information on passengers such as routes they travel, the number of trips they take and more.
    - i. There were around 400-450 responses. Results are still being sorted through.
  - b. Michael went through the web page and highlighted details about the project including the project timeline and where to locate the survey.
- 3) Metro bus Forward Survey – Michael showed where the survey was located, and the group discussed how to take the survey as well as various engagement events in which the survey could possibly be promoted.
  - i. Website link: <https://ridemetrobus.com/forward/>
- 4) End of the year wrap-up –

- i. Ridership totals for FY23 were 774,825 total rides.
- ii. From FY22 to FY23 there was a 6.6% increase across all modes
- iii. DAR had an increase of 20.6% in FY23 as compared to FY22.
- iv. Northstar Link increased 13.2% in FY23 as compared to FY22.
- v. Overall fixed routes saw a 4.4% increase over FY22.

5) Open Discussion

- i. There were no topics addressed during open discussion.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 10:36 AM