

The St. Cloud Metro Bus Rider Advisory Committee (RAC) held an in-person meeting at the Mobility Training Center and streamed simultaneously on Microsoft Teams on Tuesday July 16th, 2024, at 10:00 AM. The meeting was held to discuss ridership, hear the latest updates about The Metro Bus Forward Project, Discuss volunteering for the Benton County Fair, as well as various other questions.

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

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 May Minutes - The meeting was held to discuss ridership, hear the latest updates about Metro Bus's Long Range Transit Plan, Share results of the Rodeo, as well as various other questions.

New Business:

- 1) Ridership Update
 - a. Fixed route ridership was 52,149.
 - i. Ridership was down about 5.5% over all compared to May.
 - b. We did not meet last month; May's fixed route ridership was 55,054.
 - c. The Northstar link recorded 1,203 rides in June and May had 1,154.
 - i. An increase of 5%.
 - d. Dial-a-Ride side June recorded 12,165 rides and in May there were 13,406 rides.
 - e. June saw a slight decrease in ridership with a decline of about 10%.
 - i. There were two weekdays of service less in June compared to May, which often leads to a decline in ridership.
- 2) Benton County Fair
 - a. Nate Ramacher, the Marketing and Communications Manager at Metro Bus, was in attendance and discussed what volunteering would be like for 2024 at the Benton County Fair.
 - b. Metro Bus will have two tables in the sports arena building.
 - i. Two volunteers at a time will have shifts at the booths.
 - ii. Details of what will be needed will come closer to the event.
 - iii. A sign-up sheet will be sent out soon to RAC members to sign up for available shifts.
 - c. The booth will be open Tuesday-Saturday 11 am – 7 PM.
- 3) Long Range Plan Updates
 - a. The stakeholder group met in June and went over the results and recommended recommendations and had open discussions afterward. The proposed scenario is on the website under <https://ridemetrobust.com/forward>

- b. At the June 18th Board Meeting the project manager Paul from Nelson and Nygaard was unable to present and spoke at the July 16th board meeting.
 - c. Michael gave an update and overview of information available on the Metro bus website.
 - i. There is a draft of service recommendations available for review.
 - ii. It allows you to see current service with recommended service suggestions.
 - iii. It is available both on desktop or computer version, as well as a version made for cell phones and tablet devices.
 - iv. If anyone would like a one-on-one session to go over things, please let Michael know.
 - d. A survey is available at the end and is how anyone may suggest alternatives.
 - e. The survey is available in English, Spanish and Somali.
 - f. At the end of the meeting, Michael went over the Metro Bus Forward web page and showed how to access the interactive maps and where the survey was to give feedback on the suggested transit scenarios.
- 4) Open Discussion
- a. It was asked if paper surveys would be available for those who do not use a computer.
 - i. There will be tabling events at the Transit Center and other locations across the service area, and assistance will be provided to fill out surveys.
 - ii. The Travel Training team may be able to visit and assist locations where groups may be looking to fill out surveys and need assistance.
 - iii. If assistance is needed, please contact Michael or Customer Service and Metro bus will make things available as needed.

The meeting adjourned at 10:52