

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 November 19th, 2024, at 10:00 AM. The meeting was held to discuss ridership, hear the latest updates about The Metro Bus Forward Project, discuss the meeting schedule for upcoming months, as well as various other questions.

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

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

Old Business:

- 1) RAC Emails - None
- 2) Review of August Minutes - The meeting was held to discuss ridership, hear the latest updates about Metro Bus Forward Project, as well as various other questions.

New Business:

1) Ridership Update

- a. September: 54,980 fixed route rides, 1062 Northstar and 12,375 for Dial-a-Ride.
 - i. Ridership was up about 6.5% over August.
 - ii. Route 9 saw an increase of 24%!
 - iii. Northstar link was up 15%.
 - iv. Route 22 saw a decrease of 6%.
- b. October: 57,771 fixed route rides, 1244 Northstar, 14,437 for Dial-a-Ride.
 - i. Ridership was down over September, but less than .5%!
 - ii. Routes 33 and 22 saw a decrease of over 10%.
 - iii. The Northstar link decreased 16%.
 - iv. DAR averaged a slight decrease of about 2%.

2) Long Range Plan Updates

- a. The Metro Bus Forward Project was presented to the Board of Commissioners on Monday, November 18th and was accepted to move forward with plans to implement, and a final document/plan will be posted soon.
- b. Implementation does not have a timeline but will need to go through scheduling and drafting phases and no set date for implementation is set.
- c. When information becomes available it will be shared publicly to give notice of changes and status updates.
- d. For any further questions, or questions fielded by others, let Michael know and he can address them, as necessary.

3) Meeting Schedule

- a. A proposal for a bi-monthly meeting was discussed by the group.
 - i. A decision was made to continue to meet monthly.
 - ii. It was discussed to continue to keep the group informed on Metro Bus Forward.
 - iii. There is an expectation for attending and if members are unable to attend a meeting, they must let Michael know.

- iv. It was requested for Michael to also bring supplemental information/topics to meetings to help RAC members learn about Metro Bus technology, practices, and procedures and when able to bring in presenters to the meeting when able.

4) Open Discussion

- a. The Jolly Trolley volunteer schedule was brought forward, Michael informed the group that dates and locations have been determined and posted publicly but a schedule for volunteer sign up has not yet been determined.
 - i. Michael will reach out to all members when it becomes available and work to get slots filled.
- b. The next meeting will be December 17th, 2024, at 10 AM.

The meeting adjourned at 10:47