

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 December 17th, 2024, at 10:00 AM. The meeting was held to discuss ridership, Jolly Trolley Results, hear the latest updates about The Metro Bus Forward Project, learn about automatic passenger counters (APC's) and various other discussions.

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

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

Old Business:

- 1) RAC Emails – None
- 2) Review of November Minutes - 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.

New Business:

- 1) Ridership Update
  - a. DAR had 12,308 passengers.
  - b. NSL provided 1,107 trips.
  - c. Fixed routes provided 52,629 rides.
    - i. Routes 21 and 9 saw decreases of over 20%, or roughly 400 rides.
    - ii. Routes 1, 10, 11, 21 and 33 all saw decreases of around 10% or more.
  - d. There will be no service on Christmas Day and New Year's Day.
  - e. Christmas Eve, all buses must be done by 5 PM.
- 2) Jolly Trolley
  - a. Collection totals this year were \$1,851 and 9,766 pounds of non-perishables.
  - b. Over the last 14 years, the Jolly Trolley Food Drive has distributed almost 39 tons of non-perishables and over \$36,000!
  - c. Locations for the Jolly Trolley collections
    - i. Lunds & Byerly's
    - ii. Coborn's on Cooper in St. Cloud
    - iii. Cash Wise East
    - iv. Coborn's in Sauk Rapids
- 3) Long Range Plan Updates
  - a. The Metro Bus Forward Project was presented to the Board of Commissioners on Monday, November 18<sup>th</sup> and was accepted to move forward with plans to implement, and a final document/plan will be posted when ready.
  - b. Implementation does not have a timeline, but will need to go through scheduling and drafting phases before an implementation date would be set.
  - c. When information becomes available it will be shared publicly to give notice of changes for planning purposes.
  - d. For any further questions, or questions fielded by others, let Michael know and he can address them, as necessary.

4) Metro Bus Technology – Automatic Passenger Counters

- a. Michael gave a brief demonstration of how they work.
- b. All fixed route buses and Northstar Link buses are installed with APC's.
- c. APC's keep track of when passengers get on (board) a bus and when they get off (alight).
- d. APC's will be useful to help provide stop level information to pinpoint high ridership areas and stops.
  - i. This data can also provide information about activity for upcoming road projects in the region.
  - ii. Information is available via data requests for upcoming projects. Contact Michael with any further questions or inquiries.
- e. Passenger Counters are not necessary on Dial-a-Ride buses as all ridership activity is scheduled and kept track via passenger manifests.

5) Open Discussion

- a. None
- b. The next meeting will be on December 21<sup>st</sup>, 2024, at 10 AM.

The meeting adjourned at 10:51