

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 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025, at 10:00 AM. The meeting was held to discuss ridership, the Benton County Fair, go over updates with Metro Bus Forward, review portions of the Metro Bus website, as well as other various questions.

The following individuals attended: Michael Kedrowski, David Williamsen, Paul Thomas, Bruce Benner, Kelly Carlson & Jan Scott.

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

Old Business:

- 1) RAC Emails – None
- 2) Review of May Minutes - The meeting was held to discuss ridership, discuss Roadeo results, go over updates with Metro Bus Forward, cover the “How to Ride” portion of the website, as well as other various questions.

New Business:

- 1) Ridership Update
  - a. Ridership Update
    - i. The months of May and June were similar in terms of the number of service days, so characteristically they had similar statistics.
    - ii. Routes with increases were routes 9, 12, 32 and 33 with increases of or just above 10%.
    - iii. Routes with decreases included routes 2, 5 and 10 with decreases of between 7-10%.
    - iv. Totals by Service Type:
      1. FR: 51,392
      2. NSL: 1,210
      3. DAR: 12,120
- 2) Benton County Fair
  - a. The fair this year is July 30-August 3rd.
  - b. Metro Bus will be having booth in the Sports Arena.
  - c. This year we will focus on fielding questions about Metro Bus forward and the Western Transit Center.
- 3) Metro Bus Forward Update – Michael provided an overview of some updates currently underway with Metro Bus Forward.
  - a. Internally routes are being timed and analyzed for feasibility.
  - b. A press release was issued with an update about the Western Transit Center.
    - i. Following an extensive Request for Proposal and vetting process, Metro Bus selected Oertel Architects to design and build the new facility. On May 20, the Metro Bus Board of Commissioners approved the selection.
    - ii. Travelers and residents in Waite Park will start to see activity at the Western Transit Center site in the coming months. The facility is tentatively scheduled to open in late 2026 in conjunction with the implementation of the Metro Bus Forward service changes. New route alignments will utilize the Western Transit Center to provide transfers between routes.
    - iii. Metro Bus customers and the public are encouraged to attend upcoming public information sessions and outreach events, follow Metro Bus on Facebook, and visit [ridemetrobus.com/Forward](https://ridemetrobus.com/Forward) to stay up to date on the latest from Metro Bus.

- 4) Website Updates – Michael walked members through the Metro Bus website to ensure further knowledge on it. Areas covered were:
  - a. News and Events
  - b. Metro Bus Employment
  - c. Contacts and How to do Business with Metro Bus
    - i. Advertising areas and discussion followed
- 5) Open Discussion
  - a. The RAC Committee discussed further ways to make sure those with questions about Metro Bus can be assisted.
    - i. It was also discussed that it may be beneficial to have the Marketing Team or Travel Training Team come in and talk about their outreach efforts and general day-to-day activities.
    - ii. This will be an ongoing request, but Summer can be busy so Michael will look to schedule guests in the fall.
  - b. The group also discussed opportunities for trips for those with transit dependent needs outside of Metro Bus's service area.
    - i. Michael advised to investigate groups and organizations and will have further discussion at a later date.
    - ii. This conversation stemmed from those who wish to travel to the Metro Area for events etc. but cannot drive themselves and rely on public transportation options like Metro Bus.

The next meeting will be on August 19th, 2025, at 10 AM.

The meeting adjourned at 10:40