

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 August 19th, 2025, at 10:00 AM. The meeting was held to discuss ridership, hear how interactions at the Benton County Fair went, cover recent updates regarding Metro Bus Forward, hear about the FTA Administrator's visit to St. Cloud, as well as other various questions.

The following individuals attended: Michael Kedrowski, David Williamsen, Paul Thomas, Vicki Johnson, 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, the Benton County Fair, go over updates with Metro Bus Forward, review portions of the Metro Bus website, as well as other various questions.

New Business:

1. Ridership Update – Ridership was up in the month of July over June. Primarily due to more service days but also there does tend to be some consistency across the board.
 - a. FR – 53,582
 - i. Routes 1 and 8 saw the largest increases of close to 10%.
 - ii. Route 22 had a decrease of 12%.
 - b. NSL – 1,246
 - i. Slight increase with 36 more passengers over July.
 - c. DAR - 13,198
 - i. Sundays had a decrease of 20% but had a decrease of a day.
 - ii. Weekday ridership was up 10% or 1,200 rides.
 - iii. Saturdays were up by about 5% or about 40 rides.
2. Benton County Fair – The fair this year was July 30-August 3rd.
 - a. At the booth, a lot of the questions were regarding the up-to-date news with Northstar Link, it will no longer be in service Starting January 2nd.
 - b. Many were concerned about changes to our service area regarding the Metro Bus Forward initiative. Some good conversations occurred with several current riders worried about routes affecting day-to-day commutes.
 - c. Michael asked RAC members to keep in mind there will be time to plan and help learn about these changes.
 - d. Metro Bus's Travel Training Team is always available for meetings to assist anyone who needs it.
 - e. Please reach out if you know anyone who is struggling to manage this change. We want to ensure that we can assist as needed but also allow for proper planning.
3. Metro Bus Forward Updates – Internally routes are being timed and finalized before it goes into scheduling. Nothing we presented in the planning phases is exactly what will happen, but it will be similar.
 - a. There are no set plans for the Sartell on demand area, and it is also unknown what type of vehicle will be used.

- i. The Route 32 will be condensed to cover Country Manor, Walmart, Centra Care and Coborn's. It was redesigned to hit most of the primary ridership areas in the south and connect with several other routes for efficiency.
- 4. Open Discussion
 - a. Michael showed photos from the Metro Bus website regarding the Roadeo and went over the results.
 - b. On August 14 Metro Bus welcomes new FTA Administrator.
 - i. On Thursday, August 14, newly confirmed Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Administrator Marcus J. Molinaro will visit Metro Bus during his visit to St. Cloud to address the Community Transportation Association of America (CTAA) SUN Conference.
 - ii. Mr. Molinaro was joined by Congressman and House Majority Whip Tom Emmer for a visit to the St. Cloud New Flyer facility in the morning, speak at the SUN Conference over lunch, and tour the Metro Bus Mobility Training Center and Operations Center.
 - iii. Media members were invited to join the tour of the Mobility Training Center with CTAA members and the other guests.
 - iv. The Mobility Training Center will be closed to the public during the tour.
 - c. Michael will look to address the following points brought up in prior open discussions when available:
 - i. Why do we do Waite Park/Sartell etc. and how Tri-cap works and assists greater area transit.
 - ii. What services are available outside of the area to get out of the area?
 - iii. How do we advertise and tell people about our services?
 - iv. What trips and plans can be made to help people know and use transit even outside our service area?

The next meeting will be on September 16th, 2025, at 10 AM.

The meeting adjourned at 10:40