

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 16th, 2025, at 10:00 AM. The meeting was held to discuss ridership, discuss the status of the Metro Bus Forward project, discuss the Jolley Trolley Food Drive, as well as various other questions.

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

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

Old Business:

- 1) RAC Emails – Questions were emailed to Michal regarding the following:
 - a. Service to the Twin Cities – Jefferson Lines and Amtrak
 - b. What will the grant all be used for – Will be discussed during open discussion
 - c. What are the rules/regulations about Strollers and Carts on Buses:
 - i. Only collapsible carts are allowed on buses.
 - ii. Empty carts must be collapsed by the customer when not in use.
 - iii. Shopping carts of any kind (Coborn's, Target, Walmart, etc.) are not allowed.
 - iv. The customer must always maintain control of their own cart.
 - v. The cart, and belongings in the cart, must remain out of the aisle and may not impede passenger movement.
 - vi. The cart can be placed in the securement area if no mobility device is present. However, if a mobility device boards, the cart must be moved.
 - vii. The Operator is required to secure collapsible carts on DAR buses.
 - viii. On Fixed Route buses, passengers are allowed to secure their own cart. The Operator may assist but is not required to.
 - ix. Strollers that cannot be collapsed are allowed.
 - x. Medical strollers (see previous memo) should be treated as a mobility device and secured by the Operator. Children can remain in this type of stroller when secured.
 - xi. Children must be removed from non-medical strollers when the bus is in motion and must remain in the passenger's control, be out of the aisle and not impede passenger movement.
- 2) Review of November Minutes The meeting was held to discuss ridership, discuss the status of the Metro Bus Forward project, as well as various other questions.

3) New Business:

1. Ridership Update –
 - a. Most routes saw decreases in November.
 - i. This was also primarily due to only having 19 weekdays of service.
 - ii. The bulk of weekly ridership occurs on weekdays.
 - b. Across the board, things were very consistent with “declines” and the highest were routes 3, 12 and 31 with decreases close to 20%.
 - c. Looking strictly at numbers, routes 1 was down the most with 1,100 less rides and route 3 with 1,380 less than last month.
 - d. Route 22 saw an increase as there were 5 Saturdays and 5 Sundays of service last month.
 - i. Route 22 does not run until 5 PM on weekdays and runs hourly on weekends.

- e. The Northstar link is in its final month of service in December.
 - i. The month of November provided 1,174 rides.
 - f. Dial-a-Ride provided 12,319 rides.
2. Metro Bus Forward Updates
- a. Schedules are being pieced together still
 - b. Stops are being finalized and we are conducting interviews with peer agencies like Rochester and Duluth to discuss bus stops and placement.
 - i. It is important to learn about how various other agencies conduct their work. It is not as simple as finding a spot and putting a sign in the ground.
 - c. Routes are being named/numbered... more info to come soon!
 - d. Visit ridemetrobus.com/forward to see more or click the following link if viewing online:
[Metro Bus Forward | Metro Bus](#)
3. Open Discussion
- a. Metro Bus awarded \$14 million FTA grant to power the community forward
 - i. It was announced that we have been awarded a \$14,289,325 grant from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) a transformative investment that will strengthen the public transportation system and enhance mobility for the communities served.
 - ii. This funding is earmarked for fleet replacement and will be used exclusively to replace 23 city/large buses that have reached their federal useful life. By modernizing their fleet, Metro Bus will continue to deliver safe, reliable, and efficient service while improving overall network performance for our riders.
 - b. Michael informed the group that the Jolley Trolley will be December 15th-18th.
 - i. Thanks to the generosity of Lunds & Byerlys and their patrons, we collected \$429 and 1,268 pounds of food for the food shelves on Monday, December 15th.
 - c. Holiday Schedule – All operators need to be off the streets and clocked out by 5 PM this year.
 - i. Metro Bus Dial-a-Ride and Fixed Route services will be closed on Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, and New Year's Day.
 - ii. Fixed Route and Dial-a-Ride service will also end early on Christmas Eve. No Dial-a-Ride service will be scheduled after 4:30 PM and all Fixed Route and Dial-a-Ride buses will be off the road by 5 PM.
 - d. Metro Bus will operate regular service on Black Friday and New Year's Eve.
 - i. For more details visit: ridemetrobus.com

The next meeting will be on January 20th, 2025, at 10 AM.

The meeting adjourned at 10:38.