

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 April 21st, 2026, at 10:00 AM. The meeting was held to discuss ridership, share information about the annual Rodeo, discuss the status of the Metro Bus Forward project, hear about the You-Go-Free program as well as various other questions.

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

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

Old Business:

- 1) RAC Emails – none
- 2) Review of March minutes: The meeting was held to discuss ridership, discuss the status of the Metro Bus Forward project, discuss the final Jolley Trolley Food Drive results, present website updates, as well as various other questions.

New Business:

1. Ridership Update – March
 - a. With temperature increases throughout March there were also increases in ridership over February.
 - i. March saw two more weekdays of service, and an additional Sunday accounting for a large part of why ridership increased.
 - b. Fixed Route
 - i. All routes saw increases.
 1. The largest increase coming to Route 31 with an increase of over 16%, or 430 more trips.
 2. The largest increase passenger wise was route 3 with 680 more trips provided, or an increase of 11%.
 - c. Dial-a-Ride saw an increase of seven hundred more trips over last year with 14,340 vs 13,163.
 - i. In March, Dial-a-Ride provided 13,159 trips.
2. Metro Bus Forward Updates
 - a. Schedules are still being pieced together
 - i. This is an extensive process and takes a lot of time.
 - ii. Schedules are one of the largest components of this project and it is becoming closer to knowing not only when routes will operate, but also how often.
 - b. Bus stops are being located, numbered and named appropriately.
 - i. Landmarks and Business names were avoided whenever possible to provide consistency as well as more concise descriptors using cross streets, and when that is not possible to use address points.
 - c. There will be a campaign to get information out publicly ahead of time, so pay attention to postings and more details will be released when available.
 - i. This campaign will begin internally and then there will be a survey, focus groups and map releases to get information and have select groups informed as early as possible.
 - d. The project does not have a set launch date.
 - e. For more details visit: [Metro Bus Forward](#) | [Metro Bus](#)

3. Metro Bus Annual Roadeo

- a. On Thursday, May 21, the 37th Annual Local Bus Roadeo will be held on a closed course at the St. Cloud State University (SCSU) K-Lot next to the Herb Brooks National Hockey Center.
- b. The action begins at 11 AM with the large (Fixed Route) bus division followed immediately by the small (Dial-a-Ride) buses.
- c. Bus Operators navigate a timed obstacle course comprised of orange road cones, an acceleration requirement and other tests mimicking real-life driving scenarios.
- d. Metro Bus staff and volunteers score the competitors throughout the maneuvers including avoiding cones, minimizing stops and starts, maintaining optimal distance from obstacles and more.
- e. The Roadeo and practice prior to the event provide Bus Operators with an opportunity to hone their real-world driving skills, as well as an occasion to gather with co-workers.
- f. Top finishers in each division qualify to compete in the Minnesota Statewide Bus Roadeo to be held July 17-18 in Carver, MN, hosted by Southwest Transit.
- g. Top finishers at the state level are also eligible to advance to their respective national competition.

4. You-Go-Free

- a. The Metro Bus U-Go Free Summer Youth Program is gearing up for summer! Kids aged seventeen and younger enjoy free, unlimited rides on all Metro Bus Fixed Routes from June 1 to August 31 with valid identification.
 - i. Valid ID options include the following:
 1. K-12 school IDs, including digital IDs, or various other types of picture ID
 2. Metro Bus U-Go Free ID card
- b. Youth may be asked to show an ID with additional information such as date of birth if they appear to be over the age of seventeen. Youth group leaders can also register for a Metro Bus U-Go Free ID card for easy group transportation.
- c. U-Go Free passengers must have the proper ID ready when they board the bus, including digital IDs on a phone or other device. Each passenger is required to have their own device to avoid one device being shared between passengers.
- d. Resources for U-Go Free Summer Youth Program participants:
 - i. U-Go Free rack cards in buses and community schedule outlets, PDF and print versions by request
 - ii. Free Travel Training for anyone who would like to learn to navigate the Metro Bus system
 - iii. How-to-Ride videos available in English, Spanish and Somali on the Metro Bus website

5. Open Discussion

- i. None

The next meeting will be on May 19th, 2026, at 10 AM.

The meeting adjourned at 10:31.