

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 May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2026, at 10:00 AM. The meeting was held to discuss ridership, share information about the annual Roadeo, discuss the status of the Metro Bus Forward project, hear about the You-Go-Free program, and talk about upcoming community events as well as various other questions.

The following individuals attended: Michael Kedrowski, Jan Scott, Paul Thomas, Kelly Carlson & Vicki Johnson

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

Old Business:

- 1) RAC Emails – none
- 2) Review of April minutes: The meeting was held to discuss ridership, share information about the annual Roadeo, discuss the status of the Metro Bus Forward project, hear about the You-Go-Free program as well as various other questions.
- 3) Roadeo - Metro Bus will hold its Annual Local Bus Roadeo at the St. Cloud State University (SCSU) K-Lot on May 21<sup>st</sup>.
  - a. 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.
  - b. Over the years, Metro Bus Operators have taken first place in the Minnesota State Roadeo 26 times and have placed in the top four in national/international competitions eight times with two first place finishes.
  - c. Recently the Community Transportation Association of America's 2026 conference was in Omaha Nebraska, and we sent four participants all did well and Metro Bus took first in Fixed Route!
- 4) You-Go-Free
  - a. The Metro Bus U-Go Free Summer Youth Program is gearing up for summer! Kids ages 17 and younger enjoy free, unlimited rides on all Metro Bus Fixed Routes from June 1 to August 31 with valid identification.
  - b. Valid ID options include the following:
    - i. K-12 school IDs, including digital IDs, or various other types of picture ID
    - ii. Metro Bus U-Go Free ID card
      1. Resources for U-Go Free Summer Youth Program participants:
        - a. U-Go Free rack cards in buses and community schedule outlets, PDF, and print versions by request
        - b. Free Travel Training for anyone who would like to learn to navigate the Metro Bus system.
        - c. How-to-Ride videos available in English, Spanish and Somali on the Metro Bus website.

New Business:

1. Ridership Update – April
  - a. Fixed Route
    - i. There was a slight decline in ridership over March but there was also one less service day, a Sunday.
    - ii. Most routes were close to last month outside of route 8, which saw a 5% increase or 120 more rides provided.
      1. The highest increase overall was route 33 with 142 more trips than last month.

2. Route 3 saw the largest decline, of 4% or 230 less rides provided.
    3. Route 22 saw a decrease of 22% due to one less day of service, and it had 160 less trips provided.
  - b. Dial-a-Ride saw an increase of 347 more trips over last year with 13,551 vs 13,204.
    - i. Last month we provided 14,340 trips.
  - c. A good metric to look at when comparing ridership from month to month, or even year to year is passengers per hour and we went from 2.83 to 2.89.
2. Metro Bus Forward Updates
  - a. Schedules are still being pieced together.
    - i. 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.
  - c. The project does not have a launch date set but will have an update publicly as soon as possible to allow for proper planning for customers.
  - d. For more details visit: [Metro Bus Forward](#) | [Metro Bus](#)
3. Upcoming Events
  - a. Roadeo May 21<sup>st</sup>.
  - b. Sartell Summer Fest – Second Weekend in June
  - c. Summertime by Lake George – Wednesdays all Summer
  - d. Rapids River Food Fest – Last Weekend in June
  - e. Granit City Days – Last Weekend in June
  - f. Waite Park Family Fun Fest – June 8-12<sup>th</sup>.
  - g. Benton County Fair – August 4-9<sup>th</sup>
4. Open Discussion
  - a. Metro Bus Breaks Ground on New Transit Facility
    - i. On Tuesday, May 5, representatives from the Metro Bus Board of Commissioners, Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT), Oertel Architects and KNB Contracting gathered to officially kick-off construction of a new transit facility at 441 2nd Ave S in Waite Park. The new facility will augment the current Metro Bus Transit Center and overall system as part of new routes and service improvements known as Metro Bus Forward.
    - ii. At the ceremony, Metro Bus CEO Ryan I. Daniel welcomed speakers including Metro Bus Board Chair Dave Kleis, Board member and Waite Park Mayor Ken Schmidt, COO David Green, Oertel Architects President Andrew Cooper, and MnDOT Office of Transit and Active Transportation Assistant Office Director Caroline Miller.
    - iii. During the ceremony, Miller explained the benefits of the new facility for travelers in the region and beyond, “This project represents a commitment to strengthening transit access across Minnesota. It is going to make better use of existing resources, offer more services and ultimately better serve the communities. We know that St. Cloud Metro Bus is very thoughtful and careful with the design to ensure that the facility is working for all users, including those who are using paratransit, with improvements like ADA design, wayfinding, and safety.”
    - iv. Metro Bus anticipates completing the new facility in 2027 with timing for the grand opening and Metro Bus Forward service changes to be announced.
    - v. For more details visit: [Metro Bus breaks ground on new transit facility](#) | [Metro Bus](#)
  - b. Open Positions at Metro Bus
    - i. Fixed Route Operator (Requires CDL) – Paid CDL training available.

- ii. Dial-a-Ride Operator
  - iii. Dispatcher
  - iv. Fueler (Requires CDL) – Paid CDL training available.
- c. The group discussed the Benton County Fair taking place August 4-8<sup>th</sup> and are hoping to come up with ideas.

The next meeting will be on June 16<sup>th</sup>, 2026, at 10 AM.

The meeting adjourned at 11:01.