

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 June 16th, 2026, at 10:00 AM. The meeting was held to discuss ridership, share results 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, David Williamsen, Paul Thomas & Vicki Johnson

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, 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.
- 3) Metro Bus Forward Updates
  - a. Schedules are being pieced together.
  - b. Routes have been renumbered and maps are being produced.
  - c. On Demand and Dial-a-Ride boundaries are being finalized, but some areas are needing some fine tuning.
  - d. Bus stops are being located, numbered and many are receiving proper name designations.
  - e. Sign placement for new stops is being reviewed, it is not as simple as putting up a sign. We are ensuring accessibility options, safety for pedestrians, visibility for operators, passengers, and spacing.
  - f. The project does not have a concrete launch date. Stay up to date by checking in with me as needed otherwise our website is always the best go to for all things Metro Bus.
  - g. There are plans to have a map and information ready in time to share at the Benton County Fair.
  - h. [Metro Bus Forward](#) | [Metro Bus](#)
- 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
  - c. 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 17. Youth group leaders can also register for a Metro Bus U-Go Free ID card for easy group transportation.
  - d. 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.
  - e. 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) Roadeo - Metro Bus was held on May 21<sup>st</sup>.
  - a. On May 21 Metro Bus held its 37th Annual Local Bus Roadeo at the St. Cloud State University (SCSU) K-Lot. The Bus Roadeo tested Bus Operators on their ability to navigate various real-life driving scenarios in a friendly competition. Metro Bus has held Local Bus Roadeo competitions since 1986.
  - b. The top finishers from each division have the opportunity to compete in the [Minnesota Statewide Bus Roadeo](#) to be held July 17-18 in Carver, MN, hosted by [Southwest Transit](#). Top finishers at the State level are eligible to compete in their respective national and international competitions.
  - c. Over the years, Metro Bus Operators have taken first place in the Minnesota State Roadeo 27 times and have placed in the top four in national/international competitions nine times with three first place finishes.
    - Dial-a-Ride (small buses)
      - 1. David Peacock
      - 2. Wayne Prescott
      - 3. Keith Drake
    - Fixed Route (large buses)
      - 1. Jason Hiivala
      - 2. Bob Braegelmann
      - 3. Adam Ploof
  - d. [The 2026 Local Metro Bus Roadeo competition | Metro Bus](#)
- 6). Upcoming Events:
  - a. Summertime by Lake George – Wednesdays all Summer
  - b. Rapids River Food Fest – Last Weekend in June
  - c. Granit City Days – Last Weekend in June
  - d. Waite Park Family Fun Fest – June 8-12<sup>th</sup>.
  - e. Benton County Fair – August 4-9th

#### New Business:

1. Ridership Update – May, there were two less weekdays of service, and an additional Saturday and Sunday over last month.
  - a. Fixed Route
    - i. There was a slight decline in ridership over May.
    - ii. Routes 8 and 11 saw a 20% decrease. Route 8 saw 580 less trips provided and Route 11 saw 460 less trips provided.
    - iii. The largest overall drop in ridership was route 1, which provided 765 less trips but that is only a 10% decrease.
  - b. Dial-a-Ride saw a decrease of 809 rides and went from 13,551 to 12, 742.
    - i. 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 2.84 to 2.94. remarkably close.
  - c. We are still looking for Operators and have still been experiencing a cycle of hiring new drivers while some retire and unfortunately there are some resignations over time.
    - i. We are also looking to fill open positions as dispatchers and a fueler position as well.

The next meeting will be on Jul 21<sup>st</sup>, 2026, at 10 AM.

The meeting adjourned at 10:56