

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 July 21st, 2026, at 10:00 AM. The meeting was held to discuss Metro Bus Forward and its current progress, discuss the U-Go Free program and ridership, present system ridership as well as various other questions.

The following individuals attended: Michael Kedrowski, Jan Scott, Kelly Carlson, 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 June minutes: 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.
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 are being reviewed.
 - f. The project does not have a concrete launch date.
 - i. Stay up to date by checking in with Michael as needed otherwise our website is always the best go to for all things Metro Bus.
 - ii. Website link: [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. During the school year Metro bus has an agreement with District 742 to provide students with bus passes.
 - d. U-Go Free rides are not exclusively tracked. We use a FREE category on our fareboxes and generalize what numbers may be based on how much they increase from May to June and each month during the summer.

New Business:

1. Ridership Update – June
 - a. There was an increase in ridership in June.
 - i. There were additional weekdays with 22 vs 20 in May, and one less Saturday and Sunday.
 - b. Routes 3 and 21 saw the largest increases with over 8 %.
 - i. Route 3 had nearly 500 more rides, and route 21 had 210 more rides.

- c. The largest overall drop in ridership happened to routes 4 and 22 with decreases of 10%.
 - i. Route 4 had a decrease of 250 and route 22 decreased by 100.
 - d. Dial-a-Ride saw an increase of over 1,600 rides with a total of 57,857.
 - i. Passengers per hour year over year went from 2.76, to 2.89.
 - 2. Benton County Fair
 - a. Benton County Fair – August 4th-9th
 - b. Metro Bus will have a booth once again.
 - c. Last month Michael mentioned that there are plans to have a map and information ready in time to share at the Benton County Fair. **That is no longer true.**
 - 3. Open Discussion:
 - a. Rodeo - The Minnesota Public Transit Association, or MPTA had its annual state rodeo competition July 17-18th in Carver, MN. It was hosted by Southwest Transit.
 - i. Metro Bus sent 6 operators down and had a winner!
 - 1. In the small bus division David P took 1st place.
 - ii. Website link: [2026 MPTA Bus Rodeo | Minnesota Public Transit Association](#)
 - b. Metro Bus is 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. There are additional open positions as dispatchers and a HR specialist.

The next meeting will be on August 18th, 2026, at 10 AM.

The meeting adjourned at 10:59