

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 August 18th, 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, Kelly Carlson, Paul Thomas, David Williamsen (excused) & Vicki Johnson

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

Old Business:

1. RAC Emails – none
2. Review of July minutes: 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.
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. Michael gave a brief update about the progress of construction at new transit facility in Waite Park.
 - g. 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. U-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.
 - i. Ridership averages just over 500 each month U-Go Free rides are not tracked exclusively.
 - ii. A FREE category is used on the fareboxes and generalize what numbers may be based on how much it increases or decreases each month.
 - iii. Ridership in the FREE category went from 3,861 rides in June to 3,436.

New Business:

1. Ridership Update – July

- a. There was an increase in ridership in July. There was an additional weekday of ridership, with one less Saturday so ridership had only a slight increase over June.
 1. Route 12 saw an increase of 12 % with a little over 300 more rides than June and was the highest increase number wise as well.
 2. The next route with an increase was 11, with about 9% or 169 passengers.
 3. The largest overall drops in ridership were routes 32 and 9 with drops of 9 %, but route 5 had the largest drop in passengers with 230 less, only a drop of 4 % in ridership.
- b. Dial-a-Ride saw a decrease of 475 passengers, and a total of 12,509 trips were provided.
 1. Passengers per hour year over year went from 2.36, to 2.34, which is nearly identical.

2. Open Discussion:

- a. Metro Bus is still looking for Operators primarily in Dial-a-Ride.
 1. We are also looking to fill open positions as dispatchers, Scheduling and Support Specialist and an HR specialist.

The next meeting will be on September 15th, 2026, at 10 AM.

The meeting adjourned at 10:33