

A regular meeting of the St. Cloud Metropolitan Transit Commission was held on the 18th day of May 2010 at 4:03 p.m. at the Metro Bus Operations Center. Chairman Ringsmuth presided with the following present:

Commissioners:	1. Paul Ringsmuth
	2. Carolyn Garven
	3. Mark Campbell-absent
	4. Dave Kleis
	5. Steve Hennes
Executive Director:	David W. Tripp
Director of Operations & Technology:	Tony Kellen
Director of Planning & Marketing:	Tom Cruikshank
Administrative Secretary:	Libby Dykema
Others:	Hazel Youngmann, Derrick Shaney, Terry Markfort, Gary Korneck, Berta Hartig, Kim Hoff

Additions or Changes to the Agenda. Add #11: Route Adjustment Changes. Add #12: ARBOC Bus Purchase Orders. Add #13: Discussion of Public Hearing for Sartell Route Changes. **Commissioner Hennes moved, and Commissioner Kleis seconded a motion, to approve the Agenda as amended. Motion carried.**

Consent Agenda. **Commissioner Garven moved, and Commissioner Hennes seconded a motion, to approve the Consent Agenda which included the April 20, 2010 Regular Meeting Minutes, the April 29, 2010 Special Meeting Minutes, the March, 2010 Budget Statements, the April, 2010 Balance Sheets, and the April, 2010 List of Bills. Motion carried.**

Old Business. There was none.

New Business.

9.) Operations Reports

a.) April, 2010 Ridership. Mr. Kellen commented that although the campus ridership is down on Sundays, the core system is up almost two passengers. Saturday ridership is down slightly as a whole.

b.) Northstar Link Ridership. The passenger average was 4.6 for the month of April. The daily average passengers peaked in February at 100, decreased into the 90's in March and April, and is currently in the 80's for the first two weeks in May. Commissioner Hennes asked about adding weekend service. Mr. Tripp responded that they do anticipate adding service, but are not sure of a start date at this time. The PMT meets on Monday, May 24th, at which cost projections and budget will be discussed.

10.) Discussion of Dial-a-Ride (DAR) Extended Service Area. Mr. Markfort explained that any public transit system that receives FTA funds is required to provide "ADA Complimentary Paratransit" within three quarters of a mile from an established fixed route. Extended service outside the three quarter mile is determined locally. Currently, Metro Bus provides demand response dial-a-ride service to persons with and without disabilities in extended areas, which does create the potential to take ride capacity away from ADA paratransit eligible customers

within the service area. Services such as Tri-Cap and the Stearns County Government Center have situated their new facilities near the west end of the extended service area. Many transit dependent individuals needing the services they provide are now looking to Metro Bus Dial-a-Ride for transportation to and from those facilities. In an effort to continue to lower the ADA denial percentage, Mr. Markfort suggested determining the true three quarter mile service boundaries from established fixed routes and analyzing the impact that serving the extended area has on the ADA paratransit service. Derrick Shaney, from Care Transportation/Ride Net, asked if Metro Bus staff had considered working with outside sources that could service the extended areas, while DAR could concentrate on the core area. Mr. Tripp answered that could be addressed during the analysis.

11.) Route Adjustment Changes. Mr. Cruikshank explained that some of the needed route adjustments would have been taken care of with the route restructuring plan which is now on hold. The Southwest Route has the most difficulty maintaining its schedule because of the back-ups on Northbound Waite Avenue. There is no place to cut service as there is activity every two blocks of the entire route. The proposed solution would be to eliminate Northbound Waite Avenue and move it to 2nd Avenue North. Service would be removed from Cashwise and Kmart going north, but would be added for Kohl's and Goodwill.

To save time getting into downtown, the Northside Route, like the West Side and Pantown routes, will now use 10th Avenue to 1st Street S. inbound to the Transit Center.

Time is lost on the Southeast route crossing at Wilson Avenue and Highway 23 two times each run. To save time, the outbound (moving south) from E. St. Germain to 7th Street SE would move from Wilson Avenue to Riverside Avenue. Inbound would remain on Wilson Avenue.

Commissioner Kleis moved, and Commissioner Garven seconded a motion, to approve the route adjustments to the Southwest, Northside and Southeast Routes as presented. Motion carried.

12.) ARBOC Purchase Orders. Nine ARBOC buses were purchased recently using ARRA funds. A discretionary grant of \$1,190,219 has become available to purchase eight more ARBOC buses at a cost of \$1,177,992. Five of the buses will be used for the Dial-a-Ride service and three will be used for the Fixed Route. **Commissioner Hennes moved, and Commissioner Kleis seconded a motion, to approve a purchase order to Hoglund Bus Company for eight (8) ARBOC buses at a projected cost of \$1,177,992. Motion carried.**

13.) Discussion of Public Hearing for Sartell Route Changes. Commissioner Garven asked for an explanation of the upcoming Sartell Route changes. Mr. Cruikshank explained that the new Sartell route is not running as frequently, departing every 90 minutes instead of 60 minutes. The time it takes to get to Crossroads to the new Walmart will be the same as it is today. Riders will need to watch the connection points with other routes very closely.

Open Discussion. Hazel Youngmann commented that the bus stop in front of Kmart is not wheelchair accessible. Mr. Cruikshank said there are plans to re-locate it, and they will monitor it, especially in the winter with the snow.

Ms. Youngmann wondered if there will be a shelter on 10th and 33rd? Mr. Cruikshank said they have not looked at that location because it is all single-family homes in that area.

Ms. Youngmann asked when the shelter was going up on 14th and 33rd Avenue? Mr. Cruikshank said that a sidewalk will be put in from North Village all the way to 12th Street in August at which time the shelters will be replaced.

Ms. Youngmann asked Mr. Kellen when the “talking” buses were coming and he said the goal was to have them installed by the time school starts in the fall. He also mentioned the new Interactive System Map addition to the Metro Bus website.

Adjournment. Commissioner Ringsmuth adjourned the meeting at 4:59 p.m.