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## Media Release

For immediate release

# Metro Bus Commission approves pilot on-demand ride service, changes to Route 31

It's official. ConneX, a new on-demand ride service, will be piloted in Sartell Jan. 2-June 30, 2019. At the same time, Metro Bus Route 31 will be extended to serve the medical facilities and businesses in southeast Sartell, along Connecticut Ave. and the CentraCare Health Plaza. ConneX will replace Metro Bus Route 32 during the trial period. Customers will be able to use ConneX to travel anywhere in the Sartell service area (see map), including the CentraCare Health Plaza. They may connect to or from the Metro Bus Fixed Route by requesting a pick-up or drop-off at Country Manor for Routes 21 and 22 or the Sartell Walmart for Route 31.

ConneX is operated by Metro Bus. Fares will be the same as for Fixed Route, the cost to ride \$1.25/person and up to two kids ages 5 and under ride free per fare. Transfer tickets are valid for unlimited use within two hours of issue, and may be requested when paying the first fare. All discounted fares permitted on Metro Bus Fixed Route will be also be accepted on ConneX. Just like on the Metro Bus Fixed Route, there are no age restrictions. Passengers must be able to ride independently or schedule to travel with their own assistant.

**How to use ConneX during the trial:** Call 320.251.RIDE to request a ride when they are ready for pickup. Callers will be given a pickup time for their location. Pick-up times will vary based on demand. ConneX will pick up and drop off at the curb nearest the requested origin/destination. Those transferring to ConneX from a Fixed Route should call to request a ride after they arrive at Walmart or Country Manor.

**Hours of Service:** Mon-Fri 6:30 am – 8:30 pm; Sat 9:30 am – 5:30 pm; and Sun 10:30 am – 5:30 pm. Ride requests will be taken up to 15 minutes before the start of service until 15 minutes before the end of service each day.

**Questions?** Contact the Metro Bus Planning Manager, Doug Diedrichsen, by calling 320.529.4483 or emailing ddiedrichsen@stcloudmtc.com.

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St. Cloud Metro Bus operates 7 days a week and provides 2 million Fixed Route, Dial-a-Ride and commuter bus passenger trips annually in St. Cloud, Sartell, Sauk Rapids and Waite Park. For more information about St. Cloud Metro Bus, visit [ridemetrobus.com](http://ridemetrobus.com).

