

James Rabe (00:00):

Well, I got men dot Mike on the phone, Mike Doherty from Mendota, this med city mover. Some folks are upset that is going so slow. What's what is the story with the meds? And he move her mic.

MnDOT Mike (00:08):

Well, it's, um, it's going about 15 miles an hour, but it will slow down at intersections. It's a, uh, a driverless shuttle and it's a pilot project that we're, we're doing and kind of getting information of how it operates within traffic like that. So, um, you know, people do get impatient, uh, but if you really look at the route, it's only going, you know, a matter of few blocks in each direction. So, um, while it might cause you a momentary delay, um, you know, is your delay 20 seconds later to get to the stoplight or 30 seconds later to get to the stoplight? I mean, it is, it does move slower. It's, it's, it's geared at about 15 miles an hour. Right. Um, and so, but it is marked and, and the thing to remember is in Rochester, there are gaps where you are able to go around it, but really on the north and south ends on, on center street.

MnDOT Mike (01:07):

And then down on sixth street, Southwest, uh, you know, it's route is only about four blocks. So it will then turn either south or north, depending on where it's out there. Um, so, you know, I just would say give it some patients, um, it's not uncommon anyway, to be downtown and have slower moving traffic, whether it's because of construction. Um, or we know that Mayo clinic attracts a lot of visitors who it's a newer town and they are driving slower because it's a new environment and they're looking for parking, they're trying to go to mail for their care. Um, so I think just, you know, opera a bit of patience and, and, and maybe some Rochester plate,

James Rabe (01:49):

I think a good friend, Tracy McCray would say, give yourself the gift of 20 seconds.

MnDOT Mike (01:54):

I'd encourage people to take a ride, um, in it, it's, it's open to the public now. Um, and it's, it's, uh, it's, it's safe. You're, seat-belted in, um, you can learn a little bit, we've got, uh, an attendant on there who just has sort of an emergency override of the controls, um, if, if there ever was sort of an emergency, but, um, they can tell you a little bit more about the technology use even like why it's slowing down or why it's speeding up, um, how it learned the route. Um, you know, so it's, it's a lot of good things and it's pretty cool that it's the first place in Minnesota to pilot one of these driverless shuttles. And it's great weather right now. So it's, it's a good time to hop aboard and, and, uh, give it a two.

James Rabe (02:40):

How do you, how do you hop a board? Are there planned stops for it or can you just wave it down or what?

MnDOT Mike (02:45):

Nope. Um, there are two stops right now. Um, and I don't know if they've got one or two shuttles going simultaneously, but there's at least one going, um, from nine o'clock in the morning until three 30 on weekdays. And then I believe it's, uh, 10:00 AM to about 5:00 PM on weekends. And you can catch, you can just, uh, on sixth street at the Rochester food co-op, um, there's a spot mark there. And then also up on center west center street, uh, just as you turn the corner, um, at the Gonda building from, from third

avenue, um, you'll see a spot mark there and you can just stand there and it will come up. It usually takes about 20 minutes for a full circle, um, on its route. And it's kinda nice. Um, you know, I was talking to our friend, uh, Pasquel, uh, down at the pizza place and said, Hey, you know, people would be able to catch the shuttle from the Gonda building down, uh, you know, just a block from his pizza place and grab a slice of pizza, enjoy it, go back down, uh, by the food co-op hop back aboard, and then go back up to the north end of the route if they wanted to.

MnDOT Mike ([03:58](#)):

And so, um, yeah, it's something, you know, we're hopeful. People can give feedback and like you said, it's, we, we want the good, the bad and the ugly.