

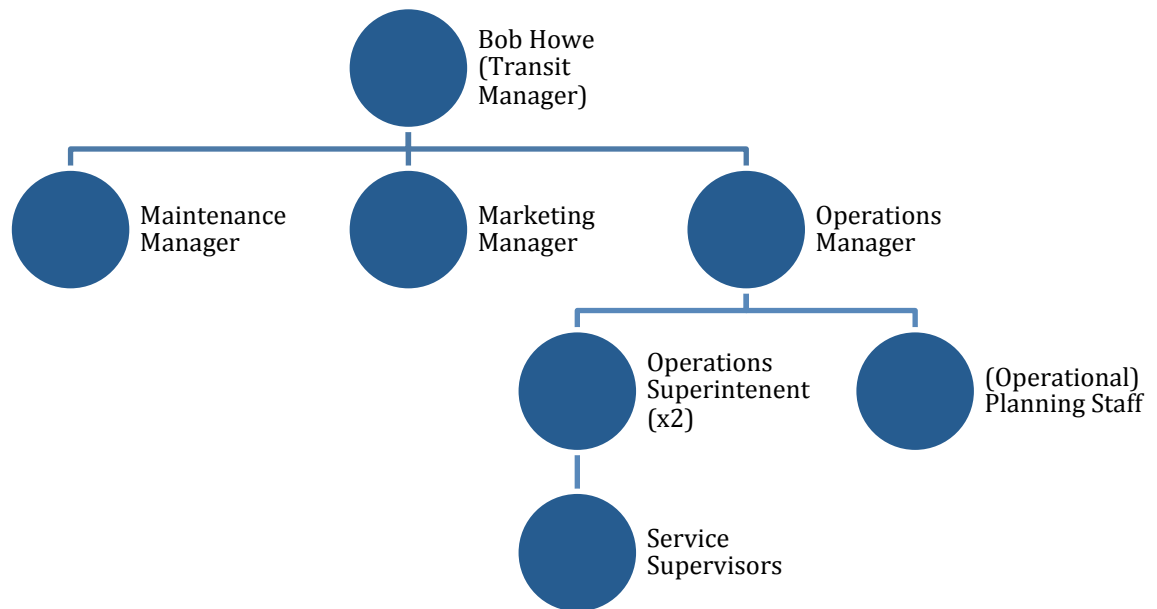
**Bus Riders of Saskatoon**  
**Meeting with City of Saskatoon Utility Services Department –**  
**November 12, 2014**

4:00pm – 5:00pm  
301 – 24<sup>th</sup> Street West, Saskatoon

Bus Riders of Saskatoon Members: Sarina and Robert  
City of Saskatoon Representatives: Alysha, Jason, Cal and Lee  
Minutes taken by: Sarina

1. Introductions

- Question about the structure of Transit. It appears as follows:



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- In addition, Lee, Manager of Growing Forward, works with Alan Wallace
- There is also another planning division, referred to as Long Range Planning with Don Cook. Long Range Planning is situated under Alan Wallace within Community Services Division.

2. Summary of Growing Forward (Lee)

- This plan invests in infrastructure for 30-40 years from now
  - Saskatoon's population will be doubling, at minimum, during this time
- Saskatoon Speaks showed that we do not want to remain with the status quo, but rather we want change
- Make the most of our resources as a city
- Encourage people to the main corridors (8<sup>th</sup> Street, 22<sup>nd</sup> Street, Idylwyld Drive)

- i.e. more options for living, working, playing (infill, shops, transit)
- Increasing transit mode share
- This project also looks at core area bridges (Circle Drive North to Circle Drive South)
- Active transportation plan – to kick off in January 2015
- Looking at financing and funding
  - Does the City need to look at other funding methods
- Online materials for Growing Forward (as part of the November 26, 2014 Public Open House) will be available as of November 19, 2014
- Growing Forward falls under Community Services and will go to the Planning and Community Standing Committee
- In the meantime, things are business as usual (maintenance will continue regularly, but there may not be any short term future changes for transit)
- Literature and handouts provided by Lee for Bus Riders of Saskatoon
  - Sarina will bring this to the next BRS meeting on November 23, 2014

### 3. Questions for Alysha

- Can you clarify about the formation of the transit advisory group?
  - Terms of Reference are being put together
    - Includes applications packages and criteria
  - Needs to go to Standing Policy Committee on Transportation for approval in the new year, probably February 2015
  - It will be likely be brought forward as a report (i.e. as a public document when it goes to the committee and therefore it is subject to public comments)
  - This committee will be non-decision making, but rather provide citizen input (i.e. NOT a council advisory committee)
  - There is no more information in terms of a timeline – hopefully early in the new year (2015)
- What are the plans for older, non-accessible buses? Is there a priority to get rid of these older buses?
  - Getting rid of them is a priority
  - Older, high-floor buses are retired when new buses are purchased
    - Older buses are easier to fix though
    - New buses are all linked to electronics and the whole system shuts down when something is wrong. They end up being out of commission and off the road from longer periods of time.
  - There are approximately 65-70% kneeling (accessible buses) – NOTE: *this is an approximation and not an exact figure*
  - Currently, the City tries to send high-floor buses on direct school routes (i.e. university, elementary or high-school routes)
  - If someone shows up for a bus and it is not accessible for them the City will call and pay for a taxi for them

- If it is cold, the Service Supervisor will show up to make sure the rider has been picked up and is not still waiting for the taxi
    - It usually ends up being faster to wait for the next bus, rather than wait for a taxi – but the call will stay in queue until the rider makes it onto a bus or the taxi arrives
    - There are also low-flow routes that have a wheelchair icon next to them. This means that the bus on this route at this time should be a low floor route
    - i.e. the City does not leave people high and dry if the route they are trying to use is not accessible for them
  - Kneeling buses cannot kneel after -25 Celsius
- Bus Shelters
  - Deferred to next meeting
  - Shelters at the Place Riel Terminal at the University of Saskatchewan is very difficult
    - All improvements at the University which involve excavation (i.e. installing concrete pads for shelters or adding poles for bus stops) need approval and it is extremely difficult process

#### 4. Update from Alysha

- Website – transit microsite
  - It will have real-time information
  - Entire background system needs to be upgraded from 2008 to 2013.
  - Hopeful for a December 2014/January 2015 implementation date
  - It will replace the Click & Go software
  - Tuesday, November 18, 2014 the City will be testing the software and are looking for 8-10 volunteers for 30-60 minutes
    - Sarina will put a call out for volunteers and direct them to Alysha
  - Phone & Go will remain but will have real-time information available for those who do not have smart phones
  - This will be a website – *not an app*
    - The mobile version will open in a web browser and is built specifically for different smart phones or tablets. It will look like an app but remain in the web browser
  - Eventually the data will be made available through Open Data

#### 5. General Questions and Discussion

- Budget gets finalized in June (i.e. 2015 budget is already decided)
- It is not legal to hand out material at the bus malls as this is considered solicitation

- It is not generally enforced, but a precedent cannot be set for allowing some material to be distributed while others are prohibited
- Public right of way is OK for distribution but the bus malls are all private property and cannot be a place of solicitation
  - See Right of Way Use or Sidewalk Bylaws
- Community Service Officer program helps with safety and security
  - Program for the BIDS and Downtown
- It is also not legal to hand out material on buses as this is considered solicitation

## 6. Meeting Summary

- Remaining questions from agenda tabled for next meeting scheduled December 10, 2014 from 4:00pm – 5:00pm at the Bus Barn (301 – 24<sup>th</sup> Street West, Saskatoon)

## 7. Meeting Adjournment