

Bus Riders of Saskatoon
Meeting with City of Saskatoon Utility Services Department

June 17, 2015

4:00pm - 5:00pm

301 - 24th Street West, Saskatoon

Bus Riders of Saskatoon Representatives: Sarina, Stephan

Attending: City of Saskatoon Representatives: Jim McDonald (Director of Saskatoon Transit), Linus Bryksa, Chelsea Lanning

AGENDA

1. Introductions

2. Background information from Bus Riders of Saskatoon

- Who we are, our mission/vision, answering any questions

3. Questions

a) What is the process for replacing broken or missing waste receptacles, and other amenities at bus stops? Is there a process for prioritizing the stops and upgrades/replacements?

- Chelsea spoke with the maintenance group
- Transit does not have any of their own waste receptacles or benches, waste receptacles are maintained by Public Works.
- Other broken amenities (e.g. cleaning, etc) get phoned into Customer Service and are forwarded to Saskatoon Transit's maintenance group
- If it is an amenity that is bought by advertising groups, it is their responsibility to fix the broken item (Transit will let them know)
- The advertising company proposes where they want the amenities for the bus stops to go, and Saskatoon Transit will either approve or disapprove the stop. They work together.
 - Saskatoon Transit's input level is the approval (or disapproval) of the location rather than determining the location.
 - Saskatoon Transit honors the contract, so if a route changes, sometimes there is a legacy bench left in place (which is why sometimes it seems like there might be random benches at some locations)

b) There has been reports of unusual, slightly noxious smelling aromas on the buses. Have you also heard about this? Do you know what it could be?

- Bus Riders clarified the smell was more of a chemical smell (such as a cleaning agent)

- Maintenance staff gets these forwards from Customer Service
 - Bus Riders of Saskatoon tries to encourage people to send their comments to Customer Service
 - Useful information for Customer Service is: bus number, date, location (makes it easy to track down the bus)

c) There has been concern from riders about the lockout having impacts on future operations. Since no settlement or agreement has been reached, we are concerned this could affect future access to transit. We recognize the details of the agreement or settlement are not our concern, rather we are concerned this could lead to events such as not having enough buses running (like the beginning of the school year) or losing access to transit as a whole (such as the lockout). Is there any update or assurance you can provide our group?

- Currently still in discussions with the Union (which is confidential)
- Saskatoon Transit is trying to continue discussions without disrupting service. They would not like any disruptions.
- The new bus strategy coming on Monday, June 22, 2015 will speak towards this
- They do not foresee another September bus shortage

4. General Discussion

- Bus Riders of Saskatoon Question: Does Edmonton have a similar group to BRS?
 - Response: Edmonton System Transit Advisory Board (volunteer group advising council)
 - They sometimes do reports on their own accord
- **Follow up on Transit Advisory Group for next meeting**
- Sarina to follow up at the July 12, 2015 Bus Riders of Saskatoon with a question from Jim
- Bus Riders of Saskatoon Question: When transit went from being a utility, to not a utility anymore, information on revenue and annual reports were published but this stopped in 2012.
 - Jim is looking into an annual report format again (hopefully for the future, can not speak to past reports)
 - **Follow up in this regard at the September meeting**

5. Adjournment

Next Meeting July 15, 2015
No August meeting