

**Bus Riders of Saskatoon**  
**Meeting with City of Saskatoon Utility Services Department**  
**May 13, 2015**

4:00pm - 5:00pm

301 - 24th Street West, Saskatoon

Bus Riders of Saskatoon Representatives: Sarina, Mandy, Cameron

Attending: City of Saskatoon Representatives: Trevor Bell (Interim Assistant Director Saskatoon Transit and Director of SL&P), Tim Bushman (Saskatoon Water), Sean Gilchrist (Marketing Manager, Saskatoon Transit), Chelsea Lanning (Transit Planning Engineer – Saskatoon Transit part time/Long Range Planning part time)

**AGENDA**

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**1. Introductions**

. Jim McDonald – Director of Saskatoon Transit

- New director for Saskatoon Transit
- Comes from City of Edmonton (last seven years).
- Background in:
  - Operations in NW quadrant
  - Fleet
  - HR (e.g. performance plans for staff)
- Starts Monday, June 15, 2015
- Tim and Trevor will return June 16, 2015 to their departments

Sean Gilchrist – Marketing Manager, Saskatoon Transit

- Started May 6, 2015
- Previous marketing background with Tim Hortons and Subway
  - Previous to that Blades/Huskies
- Fresh perspective to Transit since it is not originally his background

**2. Questions and Discussions**

Question i: Follow up with Trevor Bell in regards to last months question: “In response to Councillor Loewen’s request for a report on what it would cost to have a perfect running transit system, are factors such as snow clearing and additional waste receptacles and shelters considered in this cost?”

- This request came out of the budget process – recommendation was for “administration report back on necessary steps to get transit to industry standards in terms of maintenance staff, operational consistencies”

- Answer: No. Report does not include snow clearing, waste receptacles, etc... It would have to be its own report
  - Saskatoon Transit's report is based on current operations
  - Not based on BRT, growth, further upgrades, etc...
- Report focuses on average age of buses, average number of buses per mechanic – Saskatoon's ratio is high right now
  - Saskatoon's buses are higher than national average for age
  - What will it take to get to the average?
  - What does it take to maintain the average?
  - How will this be funded?
- Goal is having our buses on the road
- Working on the skeleton of transit operational now – that is the buses
- Hoping the report will go to SPC in June or July
  - Trevor will let us know when the report will go to SPC committees
    - We can touch base with Trevor if we have any questions.
- Report is from internal administration

Question ii and iii) Funding strategies for Transit and provincial/federal funding

- **Good question to ask Jim McDonald at a future meeting.**
- Depending on the elections as this grant is based on the Conservatives remaining in government
- Saskatoon Transit is not holding their breath. They will replace the fleet based on sources of funding that can be found currently
- There has been lots of talk out there though in regards to investing in transit systems
- The new bus barn building is an example of P3 building in Saskatoon
  - The company that builds it now will own and maintain it for 25 years
  - After 25 years developers give over the keys to the City of Saskatoon
- Saskatoon Transit leases their tires
  - Goodyear replaces the tire after a certain amount of kilometers
  - Works well for budgeting and inventory (do not need to store tires)
- Growing Forward will get a funding strategy for funding from the consultant
  - This provides a business case for applying for funding

Question iv: Confederation bus stop

- It will be upgraded starting on Tuesday, May 19, 2015
- Platform will be larger
- Replacing with regular shelter at this point (hoping to upgrade it in the future)
  - Need a city wide strategy first
- Hopefully add seating through the summer
- There will be a ramp for access from Superstore as well

Question V: Communication

- Active Transportation Plan (ATP)

- The ATP team chose not to advertise their location for the pop-up booths just in case they needed to leave on the fly
- They used social media to advertise
  - City of Saskatoon Twitter Handle
  - For further information email [growingfwd@saskatoon.ca](mailto:growingfwd@saskatoon.ca) or visit the project website: [www.growingfwd.ca/activetransportation](http://www.growingfwd.ca/activetransportation)
- Next consultation: May 23, 2015 10am-4pm at River Landing
- Suggestion: The poster is tough to see from a far. Making the date larger will help with visibility for users who are not close to the sign.
- Signage
  - Suggestion: More information at the bus stops would be helpful.
    - Without investing too much money – perhaps using a sticker to tell the interval of bus times (i.e. weekdays every half an hour at 15 and 45).
    - The stop names are hard to remember when displayed inside the bus.
      - For those who are new to using transit – this could be more difficult to remember for people who are not familiar with the location
      - Suggestion: to add significant landmarks for stop name rather than street intersections
      - Suggestion: to use color coded for west/east bound in/outbound
  - By end of June – all bus stops will have a name to display (it will be the local streets/intersections)
    - If the ITS system is not working then bus drivers will have to call out the stop names
  - Saskatoon Transit currently does revisions annually – would they have to go to all 1,600 stops to update the stickers?
  - **Revisit this item again on a future agenda.**

Question vi: Do you know when the shelters were built?

- Most shelters are pretty small from a riders perspective
- Right of way and utilities restricts the installation of residential shelters

## 1. Adjournment

Next Meeting: June 17, 2015 4:00pm – 5:00pm