

**Minutes for BRS-Transit meeting**  
**Thursday, 22 November 2018 @ 3:30-5:00PM**

Location: Committee Room B at City Hall

Present: Cory Shrigley, Allison Gray from Transit; Peter Gallén, Curtis McCoshen, Douglas Rudolph from BRS; Brent Kobes from USSU (part of the meeting).

## NEW ITEMS

- 1) University of Saskatchewan Student Union (USSU):
  - a. Brent Kobes, Vice President of Operations & Finance, from USSU had expressed an interest in being present at this meeting.
  - b. It was decided that USSU from now on would be present at every meeting as an additional, permanent delegate. Both BRS and Transit were very pleased with this addition of a very significant ridership group to these monthly deliberations.
  - c. It was noted that USSU and Transit already have a long-standing relationship through a contract regarding the U-Passes, where USSU administers these transit passes, integrates them into their regular Student Pass, and pays a fee to Transit each term.
  - d. It was noted that the person occupying the VP position at USSU changes every year; Brent was willing to work on their internal procedures that would allow the incoming person to transition more easily into his/her role regarding the transit portfolio.
  - e. It was noted that BRS is separately working on closer relationships with USSU and the university students.
  - f. A few issues were dealt with immediately at this meeting:
    - i. Brent informed us that the technical update to the U-Pass is now being tested, where the previous U-Pass sticker has been replaced by programming additional capabilities into the existing magnetic strip on the Student Card.
    - ii. Brent informed us that USSU and University Administration, who share joint administrative responsibilities for various capabilities within this magnetic strip, are working together on streamlining their procedures in order to speed up the validation of Student Cards at the beginning of each term.

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- iii. Brent informed us that a particular scam to obtain U-Passes, while disqualified, had been successfully eliminated.
  - iv. Brent informed us that students enrolled in Medicine, Nursing, Dentistry and Veterinary Medicine begin their Fall Term about a month earlier than the rest of the students and are currently without U-Pass for the first month of their studies. In certain years, all students may also be without U-Pass for a few days at the beginning of the term. Transit will review the issues.
  - v. It was noted that USSU has permanent staff at their front desk in Place Riel (beside the University Transit Terminal) and that the International Students' Association also has staff that might benefit from suitably tailored Train-the-Trainer instruction by Transit; the standard training for novice riders (called Experience Transit) was deemed too basic. Transit was interested in pursuing the topic.
- 2) Review of draft for bus route #4/44 paper-schedule & map:
- a. Transit sought feedback on the schedule/maps for the Frequent Transit Corridors and their extensions into the suburbs.
  - b. Transit is working towards Industry Best Practices in designing these schedules while maintaining desired consistency across all other schedules.
- 3) Request:
- a. BRS suggested that a digital clock be placed in the front window of the Customer Service Centre. As a general observation, BRS noted that Transit might be the perfect agency to visibly provide the exact time for the general public all around the city.
  - b. Transit informed us that a clock is already installed in the Customer Service Centre window and that a more visible replacement is in the works.

## **FOLLOW-UPS**

- 4) Transit App:
- a. Transit observed that the ongoing problems with Transit App, where moving buses are visible by some and not (consistently) by others, has been narrowed down to Saskatoon.

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- b. The likely cause is the interaction between Transit and one particular Service Provider; a resolution to the issue is being worked on.
- 5) HDR-project:
- a. BRS informed Transit about less than ideal info/access/visibility of some Pop-Up Events.

**NOTICES/CONCERNS/SUGGESTIONS FROM TRANSIT**

- 6) Transit informed us that an announcement regarding 'Jingle Bell Express' will appear shortly.
- 7) Transit informed us that the annual, SGI-sponsored transit program on New Year's Eve will be renamed 'Wing In The New Year' to coincide with SGI's "Be a Good Wingman" campaign.

**TRANSIT FARES & FARE COLLECTION SYSTEMS DISCUSSION**

- 8) BRS requested information (not already posted on Transit's website) that might be available about the Eco-Pass, U-Pass and other Post-Secondary Student Passes.

**NEXT MEETING:** Monday, 17 December 2018, 3:30 – 4:30 pm at City Hall