

**Minutes for BRS-Transit meeting**  
**Friday, 14 December 2018 @ 8:30-9:45am**

Location: Committee Room B at City Hall

Present: Cory Shrigley, Allison Gray from Transit; Peter Gallén, Robert Clipperton, Douglas Rudolph from BRS.

**BRS ITEMS**

- 1) Budget aftermath:
  - a. It was noted that 3 additional operators will be hired to reduce overtime.
  - b. Transit was not ready to discuss the details or implications of the 2019 budget.
- 2) Requests provided by our online members were submitted to Transit, with select comments included here:
  - a. Better Sunday service had the most requests:
    - i. “Making Sunday a regular service day. So many people work on Sundays but have to find alternative ways of getting to work because the Sunday service is only every hour and in a lot of neighborhoods doesn’t start until after 9am.”
    - ii. “I work weekends and on Mondays when there is holiday/Sunday service and it sucks trying to get to work on those days. I start my shifts at 730am OR end my shift 745am Sunday morning and then have to wait for the 845ish bus just to go home.”
    - iii. “I agree make Sunday a regular service day. As well have buses that connect the different parts of the city. Monday through Friday my trip from Lawson heights to Preston takes 20 mins. A round trip is less than an hour. On Sunday a round trip is over 3 hours because I have to transfer buses downtown.”
    - iv. “I agree with making Sunday a regular service day. My family would use the bus to get to church and do our shopping.”
  - b. Cleanliness:
    - i. Buses: The issue of dirty buses prompted BRS to request information on the inspection, cleaning, and immediate repairs that each bus undergoes when returning from service, the policies involved (SGI rules, etc.) and the staff that performs each task. The purpose of this ‘review’ is to

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ensure that all bases are currently covered regarding issues that directly impact the riders.

ii. Terminals:

1. "One thing that I find interesting that doesn't pertain to riding the actual bus but the bus mall ... when it snows, this should be cleared out right after the sidewalks around City Hall are ... cigarette butts should be cleaned up year-round. This type of stuff doesn't need to cost a lot of money but would go a long way to let those of us that use the bus feel like we're cared about ... and might encourage others to use the bus if this is a clean place."
2. "I agree. Having the bus mall kept clean would also encourage ridership I feel. Makes riding the bus feel less "sketchy" if you're waiting for it in places that looked cared for. And isn't the bus mall supposed to be non-smoking? Is there a way to help get this enforced? Personally, I hate being forced to wait for my bus downtown next to people who are smoking."

- c. Other concerns were the ongoing problems with route 11, crowded buses, and lack of a simple system/network map. Some operational issues that were brought up will be looked at in conjunction with our upcoming deliberations on Accessibility.

3) BRT-project:

- a. BRS informed Transit of several poorly implemented pop-up engagement events.

4) Accessibility Audit project:

- a. In the new year, Douglas Rudolph will lead monthly discussions on Accessibility. An important aim of these discussions will be to review technical issues, legislation, Transit's current policies and procedures and other transit properties. The aim is to get them fully documented and then to get Best Practices implemented in Saskatoon.

5) Request for written information:

- a. BRS reiterated our request for information (not already posted on Transit's website) that might be available about the Eco-Pass and U-Pass; describing purpose and administrative procedures.

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- b. Douglas will shortly submit by email his first request for information that hopefully will be available ahead of our next meeting.

**TRANSIT ITEMS**

- 6) Upcoming route/schedule changes on 6 January 2019:
  - a. The new schedules for routes 4, 43, 44 & 45 will provide one hour longer rush-hour service.
  - b. Transit is working with the Transportation Department to shorten the time required for outbound buses on routes 43/44/45 to turn left onto Preston Avenue from College Drive in order to improve their chances to stay on schedule. The number of time points will also be reduced.
  - c. Route 11 will get a new schedule and shortened route; it will also be interlined<sup>1</sup> with route 30.
  - d. Descriptions of the upcoming changes and new schedules/route maps will be posted shortly on Transit's website.
- 7) Crowded buses:
  - a. Transit noted that although very frequent service exists from University to the Downtown Terminal using routes 4 & 60, riders tend to crowd onto route 60 buses (which enter University Terminal) while ignoring the less crowded buses on route 4 (which stay on College Drive). Perhaps riders are not fully aware of the common stops for both routes on College Drive, especially the stop (#4442) at St. Thomas More?
- 8) Transit Master update:
  - a. Transit's new ITS-software, Trapeze Transit Master, and the associated Control Centre in the COC-building are now operational.
  - b. Associated software updates in each bus remain on track to be completed by mid-December.

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<sup>1</sup> 'Interlined' is transit terminology for the occasion (typically at a terminal) where an inbound bus of one route becomes the outbound bus on a different route.

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- c. Until all software updates have been fully completed, 'bus locations' and 'next bus information' may not always be available in the Transit App; the printed schedule is available, however.

9) Information Screens:

- a. Transit in conjunction with the Airport Authority is undertaking a pilot project at Saskatoon Airport where certain existing information screen will display transit bus arrivals and departures.
- b. BRS encouraged Transit to expand the pilot to include existing information screens at University Terminal for the same purpose. In this latter case the screens should also display bus stops and associated bus routes outside the immediate Terminal area (e.g., see item 7a above regarding particular stops on College Drive); this project would involve close collaboration with USSU.

10) Jingle Bell Express:

- a. Transit informed us that the seasonal service, Jingle Bell Express, is now operational and ridership is up from last year.

11) Wing in the New Year:

- a. 'Wing in the New Year' is an effort to combat drunk driving during New Year's celebrations; it is facilitated by Saskatoon Transit who provides free transit services on all routes throughout the day on New Years Eve.
- b. Transit's own program integrates seamlessly with a long-running SGI program, called "Be a Good Wingman", which sponsors free transit on all routes after 7:00pm on New Years Eve.

12) U-Start:

- a. Transit will take part in the Winter edition one-day U-Start program at University on 2 January 2019.

13) Saskatoon Council on Aging (SCOA):

- a. Transit informed us that they have begun regular meetings with SCOA.
- b. BRS requested that items of interest from those meetings also be brought to the attention of our meetings with Transit.

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- c. Issues pertaining to Cheshire Homes were mentioned briefly.

**NEXT MEETING:** Monday, 28 January 2019, 3:30 – 4:30 pm at City Hall