

**Minutes for BRS-Transit meeting**  
**Friday, 25 February 2019 @ 3:30-5:00pm**

Location: Committee Room B at City Hall

Present: Cory Shrigley, Allison Gray from Transit; Brent Kobes from USSU; Peter Gallén, Douglas Rudolph, Robert Clipperton, Curtis McCoshen from BRS.

**MEETING ADMINISTRATION**

- 1) Curtis was appointed Chair of this meeting, while Peter will provide the minutes.

**USSU ITEMS**

- 2) Electronic Display at Place Riel:
  - a. Brent mentioned that the electronic display for transit information at Place Riel is now installed while programming work continues to make it fully functional.

**BRS ITEMS**

- 3) BRS was grateful for the documentation received from Transit about the U-Pass and Eco-Pass.
- 4) Snow Clearing:
  - a. Transit informed us that snow clearing in the City continues to pose difficulties because the responsibility and work is spread among a myriad of players.
  - b. Although City Bylaw # 8463 deals with snow-clearing of sidewalks, no single comprehensive documents exists that would clearly spell out the responsible party and would cover every aspect of snow clearing in the public and semi-public spaces, such as roads, sidewalks, transit terminals, bus stops, shopping malls, etc.
  - c. However, regulations and certain special arrangements do exist. For example:
    - i. In general, roadways are handled by the City's Works Department, while sidewalks, including bus stops, are the responsibility of the property owner, although bus stops are not specifically mentioned in any regulations.
    - ii. University of Saskatchewan, which includes a Bus Terminal in front of a building owned by the USSU, handles all snow-clearing on its property.
    - iii. Regarding the shopping malls that contain a Bus Terminal, Saskatoon Transit has negotiated separate agreements with each mall owner. In some cases Transit clears the running way into the Terminal while the Mall clears the bus stops, while in other cases the Mall clears all these areas.
- 5) Accessibility Audit regarding Bus Stops:
  - a. Today's focus on BRS's ongoing Accessibility Audit was on Bus Stops.
  - b. Transit noted that they have begun preparing a template for the collection of detailed bus stop data. This bus stop audit will include data collection of the 1600+ bus stops, of which approximately 200 may be removed following further analysis. The database will include information such as location, amenities, platform condition and accessibility to name a few.

- c. A brief update of the template was provided to the City's Accessibility Committee about two weeks ago.
  - d. On-site audits of the bus stops will continue throughout April-September with an October 2019 target date for completion of the data collection phase. Once the audit is complete, analysis of the compiled data will take place.
  - e. BRS again urged Transit to become familiar with the latest electronic technologies for the visually impaired that can be applied to transit and bus stops. These include:
    - i. QR-codes, where the embedded information remains static
    - ii. Customizable GPS-based electronic information systems for the visually impaired, which have more flexibility. Potential examples include:
      - 1. BlindSquare (<http://www.blindsquare.com/>), an IOS-compatible App being piloted in Toronto's St. Claire subway station (<https://www.toronto.com/news-story/8155730-st-clair-subway-station-debuts-mobile-phone-app-to-help-visually-impaired/>), and
      - 2. Right-Hear (<https://right-hear.com/>), an Android & IOS compatible App also suitable for transit (<https://right-hear.com/welcome-aboard-improving-accessibility-on-public-transport/>)
- 6) Safe Bus:
- a. BRS asked for clarification on the Safe Bus program regarding its use in extreme cold, such as that experienced lately.
  - b. Transit replied that they have an extreme weather Policy that specifically applies to cold weather, but the Safe Bus program has no explicit instructions regarding cold weather. Transit emphasized that any situation deemed dangerous allows people on the street to flag down the bus and request Safe Bus assistance.
  - c. It was noted, however, that the Operator of a bus just leaving the bus stop might not always be able to stop for a person who is flagging down the bus, due to safety concerns or because they have already left the bus stop and entered back into traffic.
  - d. Safe Bus instructions are located on Transit's website at:  
<https://transit.saskatoon.ca/rider-guide/safety-security/safe-bus>

## TRANSIT ITEMS

- 7) The recording of two instructional videos about older adults taking transit, one aimed at the riders themselves and the other to train Transit Operators, have now been successfully completed after having to postpone an earlier attempt due to cold weather.
- 8) Service changes:
  - a. No major changes expected for June 1, although improvements to the Forest Grove service are being contemplated.
  - b. Route 808 pilot is expected to continue until September 2019 at which time adjustments to the route will be made.

**NEXT MEETING:** Monday, 25 March 2019, 3:30 – 4:30 pm at City Hall