

**Minutes for BRS-USSU-Transit online meeting
Monday, 20 July 2020 @ 2:30-3:30pm**

Location: Online meeting using Zoom

Present: Cory Shrigley, Allison Gray from Transit; Peter Gallén, Robert Clipperton, Bob Eaton, Scott Colville from BRS.

MEETING ADMINISTRATION

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

USSU ITEMS

- 2) U-Pass update:
 - a. City Administration agreed to extend last year's agreement with USSU.
 - b. It was noted that although less students are expected to physically attend classes on Campus, there will be approximately 3000 people on campus; besides, all students still need transit for their daily transportation needs other than getting to/from University.

TRANSIT ITEMS

- 3) Electric Bus Pilot Project:
 - a. There will be a media sneak peek tomorrow (Tuesday, July 21) of the electric bus Saskatoon will be testing over the next 12 months.
 - b. We can expect to see the electric bus as part of the transit fleet within about a month.



Figure 1 Saskatoon's electric test bus (model K9MC, assembled in California by the Chinese manufacturer BYD)

- c. The pilot project is scheduled to run for a full year to test the feasibility of electric buses in general and this make of bus in particular by running it in rigorous, regular service to expose it to the actual conditions throughout Saskatoon's challenging four seasons.
- d. Details about the pilot project can be found at: <https://transit.saskatoon.ca/news-releases/electric-bus-charges-service-test-aims-lower-fuel-bills-and-greenhouse-gasses>

4) Pantonium On-Demand Transit Project:

- a. The pre-pilot is now concluded, in which a number of BRS members participated.
- b. The 5 days-a-week, one-year pilot project utilizing one/two buses officially began today (Monday, July 20). This was a soft launch so as not to overwhelm the service as well as not to encourage overcrowding since capacity restrictions remain due to Covid-19.
- c. Everyone is encouraged to participate in the pilot by downloading the On-Demand transit apps and start booking trips. Regular transfers and transit fares apply.
- d. The pilot bus(es) will run throughout the year, Monday to Friday, 6:30AM to 1:30PM within the area shown on the map. For additional details see:

<https://transit.saskatoon.ca/plan-my-trip/demand-transit-effective-july-20-2020>

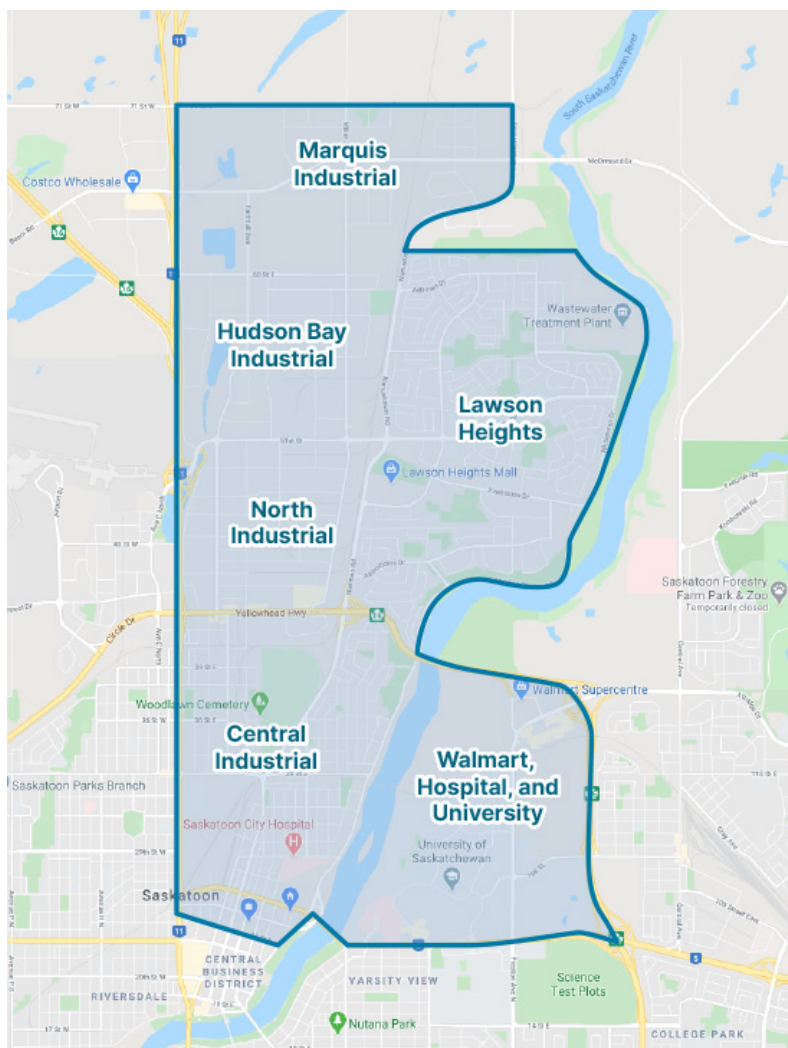


Figure 2 On-Demand service are

5) Mobile Ticketing:

- a. Saskatoon Transit is planning to announce the successful proponent of the RFP for Mobile Ticketing in the near future.

BRS ITEMS

- 6) Transit provided the following updates on the BRT Project, which will be further discussed at the regular August-meeting:
 - a. A report for pilot station funding is going to the SPC-Transportation committee in August.
 - b. The BRT Project is getting closer to the software solution for Traffic Signal Priority (TSP) between the transit software and the traffic signal software.
 - c. An engagement update for the Nutana Stakeholder Committee and the subscriber newsletter is expected shortly.
 - d. At the next meeting, the BRT Project Manager will discuss how interactions and potential conflicts between the AAA Cycling Network and Transit will be attended to.
- 7) Covid-19 update:
 - a. Due to limited capacity on the buses, 'essential travel' remains in effect.
 - b. Transit follows Provincial instructions with regard to the Covid-19 pandemic. Thus Transit is recommending the use of face-covering when appropriate physical distancing cannot be maintained – like on buses and at busy terminals. BRS pointed out that the resulting low use of face coverings prevents vulnerable users from taking transit, and thus in effect may leave them totally without any transportation!
 - c. BRS pointed out that some riders have been confused about the seat markings on buses and have not been sure whether the signs suggest that the entire row or just the marked seat should be left empty. Riders (who are not required to physically distance with the adjacent rider) should leave the seat with the sign empty.
- 8) Update on Transit's new Service Standards document:
 - a. A report on the development of Transit's new Service Standards is expected to go to the SPC-Transportation committee meeting as information in September.
 - b. The new Service Standards document is expected to go to Committee/Council for decision later this year.
 - c. BRS will have an opportunity to take an advance peek at portions of the document before its official submission.
- 9) Detours and On-site Signage:
 - a. Now that the construction season is in full swing, BRS wondered if the on-site signage procedures and detours had improved or changed in any way.
 - b. BRS related an exchange between a Rider and an Operator on BRS's FB-page:
 - i. Q: "As a driver, you might know this: How long does it take for drivers to get the info that a detour has ended?"
 - ii. A: "Well I would think it would depend on the chain of command. The road crew would have to call into city yards, somebody there would need to call the sign shop dispatch, dispatch would call the sign crews on the road, crews put it into their queue, crews finally get work done and inform their superiors, they then inform our department and then drivers receive the go ahead to return to regular route. But this is just a guess. I have seen roads open for

almost an entire day before word trickles down to us that things have opened up. We as drivers are just as frustrated some days.”

- iii. BRS noted that if the chain-of-command is as long as that described above, the result on the ground will not be satisfactory for anybody. Change-overs between detour and regular route, and vice versa, need to be precisely timed so Riders are not left stranded at the wrong stop.
 - c. Transit responded that the procedures and signage of bus detours and temporary bus stop closures is still a work in progress and that there is a serious commitment from the internal stakeholders to make it work. A report is expected to go to SPC-Transportation in 2021-Q1.
 - d. Regarding a current detour, BRS wondered why the existing bus stops along 7th Street were not used by the east-bound route 8+ buses that detour there due to the water/sewer-line replacements along 8th Street. Transit promised to investigate.
- 10) Discussion on Trip Planning, Alerts, Schedules and Routes during the Covid-19 pandemic:
- a. The rest of the meeting was spent discussing Transit operations and information methods available to Riders as the uncertainties continue in the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic.
 - b. The Customer Service Centre (CSC) will introduce extended hours as of August 2.

Walk-In Service
 226 23rd Street
 Phone: 306-975-3100
[Email Us](#)

	Walk-In Service Centre 226 23rd Street East	Customer Service Centre Info-line 306-975-3100
Monday - Friday	7:00 am - 5:30 pm effective Aug 2 8:00 am - 5:30 pm	7:00 am -7:30 pm
Saturday	10:00 am - 5:30 pm effective Aug 2 9:00 am - 5:00 pm (closed 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm)	7:00 am -7:30 pm effective Aug 2 9:00 am - 5:00pm
Sunday	10:00 am -5:30 pm effective Aug 2 Closed	9:00 am -6:00 pm effective Aug 2 9:00 am - 6:00 pm (closed from 1pm - 2pm)
Statutory Holidays	Closed	9:00 am - 6:00 pm (closed from 1pm - 2pm)

NEXT MEETING: Monday, 24 August 2020, 2:30 – 3:30 pm on Zoom (date confirmed).