

Bus Riders of Saskatoon
August 11, 2021 – 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm - Zoom Video Conference
Meeting Minutes

Facilitator: Curt Recorder: Robert

Regrets: Lila, Bob

Present: Steve, Robert. Peter, Donna, Curt, Jenn, Jim, Sydney, Sherri, Doug

1. Introductions and Group Norms (see below)
2. Finalization of Agenda. Added 6.1 and 16.1
3. Review of minutes of July 14, 2021 Meeting
4. Financial Report: Bank balance is \$339.86
 - 4.1 Balance is up by \$100.00 thanks to an anonymous donation
5. Business Arising from the Minutes
 - 5.1 Climate Justice (Curt)
 - Curt will attend their meeting on August 18th
 - Climate Justice is interested in some joint action to address global warming
 - It was suggested that BRS should make a public statement on climate justice
 - Perhaps CJ could help us draft a statement on this
 - Some asked for more information on this group
 - Suggested we invite a representative to one of our meetings
6. Correspondence
 - 6.1 Minister Chrystia Freeland
 - We have received a more detailed response to our letter of February 25th requesting increased funding for transit in the federal budget
 - Minister Freeland summarized the government's commitment to funding for transit as reflected in the budget
 - She noted that proposed projects must first be prioritized by the Province before they are submitted to Infrastructure Canada for consideration. "I would encourage you to contact the Ministry of Government Relations in the Province of Saskatchewan."
7. USSU – Issues – none brought forward

8. City of Saskatoon Meetings

8.1 Next meeting: August 16th

8.2.1 Agenda Items: Jim McDonald will be present and will be prepared to discuss budget and other issues.

- Suggested we add 'emergency planning' to the list

8.2.2 Attendees: Peter, Curt, Robert, Doug, Jenn, Jim, Sherry expressed interest

9. Standing Policy Committee on Transportation

9.1 Meeting: Monday, August 9, 2021

9.1.1 Budget requests for both capital and operating

- Proposal would provide funds for purchase of new buses and extend routes into two new neighbourhoods.

9.1.2 City policy on construction detours/closures

- Report recommends that these detours improve access for cyclists and pedestrians – no mention of disruption to Transit
- Applause for Councillor Gough who brought this to the attention of Councillors

10. Access Transit – Bob/Sydney

- Concern regarding the three day booking requirement
- Agreed that we should request another meeting with the Access coordinator in the next few months

11 . Facebook and Website Issues

- Traffic has been light on our FB page and no themes have emerged

12. Poverty Reduction Project – Transit Committee

12.1 No meetings have been held

13. Keep Transit Moving Coalition (Robert, Peter, Lila)

13.1 Report on last meeting: Tuesday July 27, 2021

13.1.1 Federal Election Strategy – Document has been put together to highlight transit/transportation issues to parties and candidates

14. Walking Saskatoon

- Group met with Danae Balogun , Active Transportation Coordinator
- Suggested that we approach Ms. Balogun to discuss issues of concern to Bus Riders

15. Actions and Action Plans for 2021-2022

15.1 2022 Budget – Priorities

- Positive reaction to Transit’s request for increased funding (see 9.1.1)

15.2 Fare Review – In progress (Peter)

15.3 Meetings with Councillors (Robert)

15.3.1 Future meetings

15.3.1.1 Councillor Jeffries - Update

- Councillor Jeffries has agreed to a meeting – there have been communication difficulties in setting a date

15.4 Provincial Government

15.4.1 Meetings with Ministers/MLAs

15.4.1.1 Letter to Don McMorris

- We have received acknowledgement of receipt of our last letter

15.5 Federal Representatives

15.5.1 Report on July 21st Meeting with Brad Redekopp

- Meeting was positive
- We felt we got our points across and enhanced the MP’s awareness of issues affecting transit in Saskatoon
- Mr. Redekopp said he would inquire from his colleagues in Saskatoon about the Provincial Government’s refusal or delay in approving and releasing joint federal provincial-municipal funding for transit.

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16. Other Business

16.1 ATAG (Active Transportation Advisory Committee)

- Curt (our representative) has been contacted regarding re-establishment of this committee
- Peter will work to set up a meeting with Danae Balogun, the City's AT coordinator

16.2 Speed Limit Review

- There appears to be no evidence that reductions would negatively affect Transit in a significant way, therefore the group has decided that we won't intervene.

17 . Date & time for next meeting: Thursday September 16th at 7:00 pm.