

**Minutes for BRS-USSU-Transit online meeting  
Tuesday, 12 April 2022 @ 2:30-3:30pm**

Location: Online meeting using Zoom

Present: Allison Gray, Cory Shrigley from Saskatoon Transit; and Robert Clipperton, Peter Gallén, James Wood, Curt McCoshen, Lila Wagner from Bus Riders of Saskatoon (BRS).

**ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES**

- For this meeting: Allison was appointed chair and Peter will prepare the minutes.

**USSU INITIATIVES**

- 1) USSU was not present at this meeting.

**TRANSIT INITIATIVES**

- 2) Student Art Contest:
  - a. After a pause due to COVID-19, this transit-themed art contest is now back.
  - b. The topic this year is 'Active Transportation and Integrated Mobility', which includes AT-modes such as transit, cycling, walking, car sharing, taxis, carpooling and Uber and how they can all work together (integrated mobility).
  - c. All students from grades 3 and 7 are eligible to submit their art as a class or individually. These grades were chosen by the school boards to participate in the contest because they both discuss public transportation as part of their curriculum.
  - d. Deadline to submit participating art works is May 27.
  - e. Winners will be chosen for how well the art fits the theme and "best captures the spirit of active transportation."
  - f. Two winners will be chosen, one from each grade to have their art displayed on the side of Saskatoon Transit buses traveling across the city throughout the summer.
  - g. Judging of the submissions will be done by rRemai Modern and Art Keeper in conjunction with Saskatoon Transit.
- 3) Bus Shelter Art:
  - a. Saskatoon Transit worked with the Saskatoon Survivors Circle and Indigenous artist Justine "Tini" Stilborn to create a shelter. Justine Stilborn captured the reflections of the Survivors to tell the story of their past. The shelter will be unveiled on June 22.
  - b. The new Bus Shelter will be installed in the Confederation neighbourhood.
- 4) On-Demand Transit (ODT):
  - a. The current ODT-software from Pantonium that was introduced in the Pilot-project and continued in use to date will be retired.
  - b. The new ODT-system from *Spare Labs* will launch this summer.
  - c. To test the new software in operation before the official launch, Transit will initiate a soft launch for invited participants starting mid-June. BRS will inform select members of the opportunity to volunteer to test out the system.

**BRS INITIATIVES**

This meeting had no advance agenda. Instead the participants fielded questions for Transit:

- 5) Mobile Ticketing & Fare Boxes:
  - a. BRS noted that Riders have been dismayed by the prevalence of non-functioning fare-boxes/bus-card validators, which has unfairly benefitted some Riders while penalizing the most loyal customers who use monthly and annual passes.
  - b. New Fare Boxes are on order and are planned to be installed this summer.
  - c. New Bus-Cards (Smart Cards) that can be read by the New Validators and are integrated with the new mobile ticketing system (*Masabi Justride*) will also come this summer.
- 6) Transit's *Dashboard*:
  - a. *Dashboard* is a proprietary data analysis and visualization tool developed for Saskatoon Transit by the University of Saskatchewan that mines Transit's ever accumulating databases for topics of interest.
  - b. Many queries are standardized, such as the tracking of Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) that Transit monitors and reports on regularly, but custom queries can also be devised by Transit staff. Examples of routine queries are:
    - i. ridership per route or neighborhood.
    - ii. changes in ridership distribution throughout the day.
- 7) Downtown BID's videos:
  - a. Transit noted that they had not been contacted by the Downtown BID regarding plans for promotional videos on the Entertainment District.
- 8) Upcoming Service Changes:
  - a. Transit announced that service changes are planned to be implemented on May 29.
- 9) Garbage Cans at Market Mall:
  - a. Since littering has been noted around the rebuilt Transit Terminal, BRS wondered if Market Mall is responsible for the garbage cans. Regardless, BRS noted that Market Mall should have an interest in keeping the site clean.
  - b. Transit responded that lights and the shelter at the Terminal are Transit's responsibility while snow-clearing falls to Market Mall, but wasn't sure if garbage cans were mentioned in the agreement.
- 10) Topics for upcoming meetings:
  - a. BRS expressed an interest in meeting with Transit Director Jim McDonald.
  - b. Operations Manager Mike Moellenbeck is expected to present Transit's *Dashboard* and the associated *Research Junction* project at a future meeting after the software and database have been moved from U of S to a City server.

**NEXT MEETING:** Monday, 9 May 2022 @ 2:30am via Zoom (note the change in day-of-the-week)