

Bus Riders of Saskatoon

March 14 – 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm - Zoom Video Conference

Facilitator: Curt Recorder: Robert Regrets: Bob, Sydney

Present: Lila, Robert, Jenn, Donna, Peter, Jim. Sherry, Stevie

1. Welcome
2. Finalization of Agenda.
3. Review of minutes of February 16, 2022 Meeting – Approved as circulated
4. Date & time for next meeting: Thursday April 14, 2022 at 7:00 pm
5. Business Arising from the Minutes
 - 5.1 Liveable YXE – in progress
 - 5.2 Letter to Editor re: Infrastructure – Hasn't been printed by Star-Phoenix
 - 5.3 EarthNet – Jim will bring an update to next meeting
 - 5.4 Saskatoon Poverty Reduction Project – Meeting on April 5th at 1:30
Robert, Lila and Sherry are interested in attending.
 - 5.5 Downtown Entertainment District Advisory Group – Lila is unable to take this on so did not apply. No others put their name forward. There will be public engagement sessions on this further down the road so we will be able to provide input from a bus riders' perspective.
6. Correspondence
 - 6.1 Media interview requests: CBC, CTV – Robert reported on his interviews with these reporters and subsequent news stories. These have been posted on our FB page.
7. Facebook Issues
 - 7.1 Themes: Service alterations/reductions, parts shortages, downtown terminal, masking on buses, federal funding for transit, route #15, electric buses.

8. City of Saskatoon Meetings

8.1 March 14th meeting. Peter reported that On Demand system will be implemented May 1st. Public engagement on Fare Review and the new network will not occur until 2023.

8.2 Next meeting: Tuesday April 12th at 2:30 pm

8.2.1 Agenda Items: Hopefully will be an explanation of the new dashboard which allows Transit to display data.

8.2.2 Attendees: Curt, Lila, Robert, Donna, Peter, Sherry, Odin

9. Standing Policy Committee on Transportation (SPCOT)

9.1 Meeting: March 7, 2022 2:00 pm

9.1.1 Tarasoff – Bus Fleet and Service Disruptions – Robert and Sherry reported on the discussions on this item at the meeting. SPCOT asked for there to be an inquiry into the causes of the service disruptions. A framework for this inquiry to be brought to the April 11th meeting.

9.1.2 Battery Electric Bus Report – Report brought to SPCOT recommending that the fleet be phased into electric buses that have satisfactory service and are more cost effective over the life of a bus.

9.2 Next SPCOT Meeting: Monday, April 11, 2022 at 2:00 pm

9.3 Governance and Priorities Meeting: February 22nd –BRS Presentation on Masking (attached)

10. Break Out Discussions – Topic: Transit and City's Long Term Planning – Growth projections and impact on transit

Most thought small group discussion was a good use of time.

Ideas – skepticism as to whether growth will happen

- Don't feel that much is being done to control sprawl
- Noted that in Victoria lots of new buildings downtown with less provision for cars and parking
- Rather than investing in roads, Saskatoon should invest in Transit so roads wouldn't be needed
- Make parking downtown more expensive so people would be more likely to take the bus.

- Transportation master plan is to add lanes to Circle Drive – just puts more cars on the roads and you get more congestion.
- Toronto - \$350 month for parking 25 years ago... easier to take transit – should make parking more expensive downtown here
- Provincial agenda is to promote oil and gas industry

11. Access Transit

Sydney sent a written report talking about problems with the need to book far ahead for Access, the lack of late night service, and the difficulty in taking regular transit for those with mobility issues.

11.1 Town Hall – no report this meeting

12. Keep Transit Moving Coalition (Robert)

12.1 Report on last meeting: Tuesday February 22, 2022

12.1.1 Federal funding announcement - \$750M for transit operating

12.1.2 Regina – Introducing free fares for children, plan to electrify fleet

12.2 Next Meeting: Tuesday March 29th at 4:00 pm ET

13. Ongoing Actions

13.1 Councillor Meeting – Curt - in progress.....

13.2 MLA Meeting – Bob E. – spoke to Minister Morgan – hope is to arrange a meeting with the Saskatoon Sask Party Caucus

14. Other Business

14.1 Mobilizing Justice – invitation received to join this group – no one interested in following up with this.

14.2 Momentum Conference – University of Saskatchewan – March 25th – see attached

14.3 Transit Driver Appreciation Day- March 18 - Sherry will take this on.

Discussion on a single fare for all fare classes. Discussion of people refusing to pay fares.

Discussion of the need for special security to be at random on buses.

15. Adjournment