

Bus Riders of Saskatoon

August 8, 2022 – 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm - Zoom Video Conference

Facilitator: Sherry Recorder: Robert Regrets: Curt, Shirley, Odin, Bob, Sydney
Also Present: Stevie, Jim, Peter, Lila, Dominic

1. Welcome

2. Finalization of Agenda. Add to 5.3 and 9.3

3. Review of minutes of June 20, 2022 meeting.

4. Date & time for next meeting: Monday September 12 at 7:00 pm

5. Business Arising from the Minutes

5.1 On Demand – Soft Launch

- Dominic and Sherry participated. This new system has a much more user friendly interface with other apps. Dominic posted on TikTok with 30,000 views. Will post on BRS FB page. Sherry would have liked to have more info before beginning as a participant.
- Discussion on FB – it appears to be more difficult to get from inner city to outlying areas is difficult that from outlying areas downtown.

5.2 Instagram Account

- Dominic thinks at present maybe this isn't a good vehicle for us at present

5.3 Copy of Human Transit to SPL

- Peter was able to present a copy to the Main Branch and it has already been checked out.

6. Correspondence

6.1 Lia Story-Gamble: Representation from USSU

- Lia has indicated that she feels USSU is able to achieve their objectives with the City through other avenues and they will no longer be attending our joint meetings with Saskatoon Transit.
- Dominic will endeavour to bring input from University Students to our meetings.
 - Some discussion of the seasonal nature of Route #13.

7. Facebook/Website Issues

7.1 Facebook – This has been a very active period. Issues included: masking, ridership levels, ATU and Pride Transit promotions, air conditioning, fare boxes, art of buses, car culture, shelters, ATU community activity, questions from riders, service issues/complaints, Transit App, fare collection, Access Transit issues, accessibility, CTV and CBC reports, corridor planning, electric buses, Safe Bus, public washrooms, Dominic’s instructional videos, Service Centre Closure, stop removal, reporting procedures, On Demand, seating – wheelchairs & strollers, train travel, cleanliness, Downtown Arena, Transit in other centres – New York, Calgary, Regina, Winnipeg, Edmonton, Montreal, Boston, Germany, The Netherlands, service hours – routes 13 and 22.

8. City of Saskatoon Meetings

8.1 Minutes of July 4th meeting are posted

8.2 Next meeting: Monday August 15th at 2:30 pm

8.2.1 Agenda Items: Specs for new bus purchases – HVAC and seat configuration, BRT pilot station.

8.2.2 Attendees: Peter, Robert, Sherry, Jim. Q. Curt, Bob, Dominic, Scott, Donna

9. Standing Policy Committee on Transportation (SPCOT)

9.1 Meeting: August 8, 2022

9.1.1 Item: 6.3.1 Melanie Christopherson - Canadian National Institute for the Blind - Accessible Transit [CK. 7000-1]

- Melanie spoke to Councillors with particular attention to the need for identifiable posts at bus stops and for consistently working audible call outs. CNIB has a National Accessible Transit campaign.
- Robert will e-mail CNIB/Melanie to make contact with them.

9.1.2 Item 9.1 Councillor Hill – Notice of Motion – Unpaid Fares on Saskatoon Transit

"That the Administration report on the issue of unpaid fares on fixed route Transit buses, identifying

- percentage of riders who pay vs. those who don't pay,
- amount of lost revenue,
- routes most affected,
- identifiable trends with respect to dates and times of incidents,
- what the current policy is in recording unpaid fares,
- how incidents of unpaid fares are dealt with by operators and administration,
- if a fare enforcer position has ever been considered,
- the current status of fare boxes with respect to missing or inoperable boxes, and
- any data from other municipalities that would be relevant."

9.1.3 Correspondence from Colleen Christopherson-Cote – Saskatoon Poverty Reduction Project – Plea to make Transit affordable, and plea not to try to police poverty.

- Discussion of the pro's and con's of free transit in Saskatoon

10. City Council Meeting – June 27th

10.1 Investigation of Service Disruptions – Approved Terms of

Reference: "The objective of the investigation is to conduct a root cause analysis of service disruptions which happened in the winter of 2021-2022 and provide cost effective and practical recommendations to avoid future disruptions in Saskatoon Transit." – Report due October 3, 2022

10.2 Review of Mask Mandate:

Moved By:Councillor Kirton

Seconded By:Councillor Davies

"That City Administration remove the mask mandate on City transit buses (which includes Access Transit), and that the City continue to provide masks, and strongly encourage them for those that want to wear them."

In Favour: Councillor Davies, Councillor Hill, Councillor Jeffries, Mayor C. Clark,
(8) Councillor Donauer, Councillor Block, Councillor Dubois, and Councillor Kirton

Against: Councillor Loewen, Councillor Gough, and Councillor Gersher
(3)

10. City Council Meeting – July 25th

10.1 Notice of Motion (Kirton): Be it resolved that Administration report back on the validity of a Transit Police Program. This report could include experiences in other municipalities, budget implications among other items. (failed)

Motion Adopted: “That the Administration provide a safety report and incident summary concerning occurrences on buses and around transit facilities”.

11. Breakout Session: 2017 Bus Riders Report on Rider Safety

- Discussion of history of the report
- Suggestion – e-mail a copy of the report to each of the Councillors and send it to Council when the report comes to Council.
- Should be added to ‘Resources’ on our web page.
- Notification of availability to be put on our FB page
- Perhaps this could be posted on Twitter and/or Instagram

12. Access Transit – Bob/Sydney – no report

13. Keep Transit Moving Coalition (Robert)

13.1 Report on last meeting: Tuesday July 26, 2022

- initiative to reach out to non-transit organizations to seek support and open channels of communication

13.2 Next Meeting: Tuesday September 27th at 4:00 pm ET.

14. Ongoing Actions

14.1 Councillor Meetings

14.1.1 Report on Meeting with Councillor Dubois July 26th

- Agreed that it was a very positive meeting -

14.1.2 Next Councillor – Gersher – Robert will ask Curt to set that up.

14.2 MLA Meeting – Saskatoon SP Caucus – June 23rd – Re: ICIP funding

- Government MLAs maintained that the City hadn't asked for money yet – Minister Wyant said he would be looking into it.
- Bob will be in touch with Mayor Clark to see if there has been any progress on this issue

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15. Other Business

15.1 Saskatoon Poverty Reduction Project – June 23rd

- No one attended from Bus Riders
- Agreed we need to keep in contact with this group.

16. Adjournment

Group Norms

All people are explicitly welcome and respected in our meetings and we will strive to include and represent the interests and varying perspectives of riders. We appreciate that we are all volunteers and that we are all learning and doing the best we can in our roles. We bring different life experiences and values to the table but what we share is a desire to work for positive change in our transit system. We aim to achieve changes in the short-term while keeping a long-view in mind and agree to engage constructively and respectfully and not just within the group but also with decision-makers, the media and the general public.

In meetings, we agree to keep comments respectful and brief and respect the role of the meeting facilitator(s) who may need to cut us off from time to time to keep the conversation on track and on time. We will avoid tangents and side-bar conversations and speak one at a time. We will do our best to be accountable for what we take on and will try not to let each other down. If we have committed to a task and can't complete it in a timely manner, we agree that we will pass the task to someone else in the group. When we feel someone is not abiding by these norms, we will gently let them know. Repeated violations of the group norms by any member will be brought to the group to discuss.