

Bus Riders of Saskatoon

September 12, 2022 – 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm - Zoom Video Conference

Facilitator: Curt Recorder: Robert Regrets: Bob, Dominic
Present: Peter, Sherry, Jenn, Odin

1. Welcome
2. Finalization of Agenda.
3. Review of minutes of August 8, 2022 meeting.
4. Date & time for next meeting: Monday October 17 at 7:00 pm
5. Business Arising from the Minutes
 - 5.1 Safety Report – agreed that Robert should send it to Councillors before the next meeting
6. Correspondence
 - 6.1 Stephan S. re: Bill for website domain registration - \$19.99 – motion required for re-imburement to Stephan
 - M/S/C Peter, Odin that Robert pay Stephan
7. Facebook/Website Issues
 - 7.1 Facebook – These issues were brought forward since our last meeting: accessibility, ICIP information, news from Council and SPCOT, route changes – info and concerns, info from ATU, service alerts, info from Saskatoon Transit, stop and shelter issues, service issues, educational videos (thanks to Dominic), OnDemand, info from CUPE, requests for information – ticketing, Transit app. service, Transit News: BC , Montreal, NYC, Nova Scotia, urban and system planning, fleet concerns: card readers, air conditioning, driver condemnations and commendations, safety on buses, Transit funding, non-transit information.
 - A member questioned changes in eligibility for a social assistance bus pass for SIS recipients which may be contributing to the number of people who are boarding buses without paying the fare.
 - Suggested bringing the issue to the Poverty Reduction Project
 - Robert will post a question on our FB page

8. City of Saskatoon Meetings

8.1 Previous meeting: Monday August 15th: Topics: USSU, recommended specifications for new bus purchases, On Demand, service changes, Bus Stop Blues. Minutes are posted online.

8.2 September 12, 2022 - Today's meeting discussed

- criteria for putting a bus into service – we learned that only buses with 'schedule two' defects will be held back from service (safety vs. comfort)
- possible specifications for new buses – Bus Riders put forth some of their suggestions for interior bus design
- we learned that asset funding for Transit comes out of the annual budget rather than from a dedicated fleet renewal reserve like with other departments
- BRS will follow-up with FB posters on the changes to routes 2/9 and On Demand service

8.3 Next meeting: October 17, 2022 at 1:30

8.2.1 Agenda Items: Dan Williams will be available to report on BRT and related topics: the pilot station, traffic signalization pilot, timelines and funding

8.2.2 Attendees: Robert, Sherry, Curt, Jenn, Odin

9. Standing Policy Committee on Transportation (SPCOT)

9.1 Meeting: September 6, 2022

9.1.1 Item: 7.1.3 Saskatoon Transit Annual Report – 2021 – can be found on the City of Saskatoon website. Link will be put onto our webpage.

9.1.2 Item: 7.1.4 Steps Being Taken to Improve Service and Reliability – some members read the report and weren't convinced that things would improve over the winter

- Discussion of possible actions by BRS in regards to Council
- Suggest we go to Council with our reactions to the Auditor's report

10. City Council Meetings

10.1 City Council Meeting – August 29, 2022

- 10.1.1 Item 8.5.1 Options for Inclusion of the Transit Service Model within Indicative Budget
- This means that funding for service improvements justified by the Service Standards documents will be included in the base budget rather than on the shopping list – they are less likely to be cut from the budget this way.

11. Breakout Session: The Bus Riders of Saskatoon Website

(www.busridersofsaskatoon.ca) How often do we access our site? (Can we determine how after members of the public access it?) Is the content appropriate. Should there be additional content? Suggestions for re-organization? Comments from discussion:

- Was easy to find using Google
- User friendly
- Opening post shows a February 21, 2021 item – makes it look like we are inactive
 - there may be more recent presentations that could be posted
- Perhaps Peter's blogs could be posted but would need to be edited to redact material that is confidential or copywritten
- should be a link to our FB page – there is!
- Dominic's videos? Or a link to his site?
- Could the minutes be grouped by year so that they would be easier to go through? Would require a sub-directory
 - Jenn will inquire as she might know someone who knows how to do this. Robert will do the same.
- We seems to have a Twitter account – Better Transit YXE - Sherri has interacted with the holder of the account. She will try to find out who is posting on it.
- The 'In the News' section could be kept up to date and some back links provided
- We should bring this topic back to the next meeting

12. Access Transit – Bob/Sydney – no one to report tonight

13. Keep Transit Moving Coalition (Robert)

13.1 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 Gersher September 8, 2022

- Those who attended were very pleased with this meeting

14.1.2 Next Councillor – Curt will try to set up a meeting with Councillor Hill. Second choice would be Councillor Kirton.

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15. Other Business

15.1 ICIP Consultation – September 8, 2022

- Five members of BRS attended
- Robert will send out the link to a questionnaire

15.2 College Corridor – New information is available – Peter will post the link on our FB page – the maps and video are particularly valuable

15.3 Budget – Agreed that BRS should be prepared to present to Council during the public input sessions particularly regarding prioritizing new buses – the Auditor’s Report will have budget implications.

- Perhaps there will be an opportunity to present at the October SPCOT meeting and at the October Council meeting. We won’t know the agenda for the October meeting until September 28th. Sherry would be willing to present.

15.4 Saskatoon Poverty Reduction – Sept. 29 – 1:30 – 3:00 – In person meeting. Jenn might be able to attend. Robert will forward the question about social assistance bus passes to the organization.

16. Adjournment