

Bus Riders of Saskatoon
February 20, 2023 – 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm - Zoom Video Conference

Facilitator: Curt Recorder: Robert Regrets: Bob
Present: Primly, Jim, Donna, Lila, Sherry, Peter

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Finalization of Agenda.
3. Review of minutes of January 16, 2023 meeting – approved.
4. Date & time for next meeting: Suggest Monday March 20th , 2023 at 7:00 pm
5. Business Arising from the Minutes -
 - 5.1 Potential meeting with Social Services re: Barriers to Clients
 - Robert will try to set up a meeting to discuss the need to SAID clients to report to the Transit office every six months to renew their entitlement.
6. Correspondence
 - 6.1 Rob Larson - Saskatoon Cycles Request to give a contact name for a community coalition
 - Sherry volunteered to serve as a contact – Robert will pass on her name to Rob Larson
 - Curt noted that the City does have an Active Transportation Committee but that BRS has not been invited to be part of it.
- 7 . Access Transit – Bob/Sydney – no report.
8. Facebook/Website Issues
 - 8.1 Facebook – Issues from last meeting up to Feb. 19th: Farebox malfunctions, lack of ticket vendors, safety on buses, Route 43
Comments:
 - Reference made to Globe and Mail article on the state of Transit in Canada
 - Discussion about drivers waiving people on board. It was noted that University students all have Go passes and so are waived on to save time boarding.

8.2 Website Content

8.2.1 Other Contributions from group members?

8.2.1 Jenn? Not available at this meeting to comment.

8.2.2 Something on the farebox issue? Peter may be able write something further down the road.

8.2.3 Sub-directory for meeting minutes and other improvements – Sub-committee has met with Rob to come up with solutions

8.3 Report on discussion with Rob Butz re moving our web hosting from Black Sun to his firm and technical support – Black Sun account terminated – Rob Butz will offer us a better rate.

8.4 BRS Twitter Account: Is still active. Robert will contact Stephan again.

9. City of Saskatoon Meetings

9.1 Last meeting: January 30, 2023

- Topics Discussed: Good questions and answers with Branden Wallenberg, new Manager of Access Transit; lack of ticket vendors esp. on the west side (for details, see minutes once they are posted).

9.2 Next meeting: February 27, 2023 at 1:30 pm

9.2.1 Agenda Items: Discussion of ongoing relationship with City of Saskatoon – 1) The purposes of these meetings in the view of both parties - Discussion: We would like to bring us both on the same page. BRS can provide feedback from the Riders perspective that Transit may not get otherwise 2) The purposes and format of the minutes. Future meetings 1) KPI research project 2) The Dashboard.

9.2.2 Attendees: Robert, Peter, Sherry, (Jim?), (Bob?), (Odin)?

10. Standing Policy Committee on Transportation (SPCOT) – February 7, 2023

10.1 Accessibility Advisory Committee Workplan for 2023

- Categories for work include: Access Transit / Conventional Transit and Downtown and Bus Rapid Transit Accessibility

10.2 Administration Report: Saskatoon Transit Fare Box Operations Update

- Transit is hiring a dedicated electronic technician

- Fare capping will be rolled out after a public information campaign for mobile ticketing only
- Gersher asked about lack of current fare box reliability but no answer was given

10.3 Administration Report: Unpaid Fares and Fare Evasion on Saskatoon Transit

- No way of tracking unpaid fares due to faulty fare boxes
- Estimated loss revenue in 11 months of 2022 is \$166,000 or 0.6% of revenue
- Kirton observed a possible correlation between fare evasion and lack of ticket vendors
- Kirton & Clark expressed concern about effects of fare evasion incidents on operator and rider safety.
- Kirton & Clark said there needs to be ticket purchase availability at Confed. Mall. Schmidt replied that Transit will work on this.
- Comments: Some felt lost revenue due to fare box issues has been under-estimated. Letter from ATU to Council will seem to confirm that.

10.4 Next meeting of SPCOT March 7, 2023

11. City Council Meeting – January 25, 2023

11.1 There were no items related to Transit on the agenda.

11.2 Next Council Meeting – February 22, 2023 – there are no transit related items on the agenda.

12. Breakout Session: “What should our focus be for 2023 and what actions might be undertaken in this regard?” – tabled until a later meeting

13. Keep Transit Moving Coalition (Robert)

13.1 Meeting: January 31, 2023 at 3:00 pm

13.1.1 Letter to Minister of Finance re: upcoming federal budget

- Asked for funding for: transit operations, inter-city highway buses, continued infrastructure funding, redirection of funds from highways to low emission transportation, accessibility.

- Robert signed onto this letter on behalf of Bus Riders of Saskatoon

13.2 Next Meeting: February 28, 2023 at 3:00 pm

14. Saskatoon Poverty Reduction Project (SPRP) – no report

15. Ongoing Actions

15.1 Councillor Meetings

15.1.1 Meeting with Councillor Kirton on Friday February 24 at 4:00.

- Q. Topics – Farebox, ticket vendors, getting Transit into budget discussions, safety in the transit system esp. on west side Q. Staffing complete? Attendees: Peter, Sherry, Donna, Curt, Q. Bob, Q. Jim Q. Lila Q. Odin.

16. Other Business

16.1 Meeting with Erika Ritchie – MLA – Municipal Affairs critic

- Meeting took place on January 26th
- Review of BRS correspondence on accessing Federal money for BRT and request for Ms. Ritchie to bring attention to this matter

16.2 OnDemand Transit: A member living in the Rosewood area attended the meeting to report on her family's experience with OnDemand Transit. Highlights include:

- they are stressed out every morning when they worry about getting to work or school on time
- at times the arrival time changes from for example 10:05 to 10:35 which is too late so they need to call an Uber
- service has improved with the new app and this February has been more on time
- the 25 minute walk to a regular stop is workable in the summer but not in the winter
- booking return service from the University at times results in a 'no service available' message and a very long wait

- Members suggested calling Councillors Bev Dubois and Sarina Gersher to give them a better understanding of the drawbacks of the present system.
- It was suggested that BRS ask Transit what the City's predictions are for the expansion of regular service to the Rosewood neighbourhood.

16.3 BRT Concern: Cary Tarasoff would like to meet with Bus Riders to discuss the BRT configuration, particularly in the downtown area. Sherry will put send out some potential dates for people to indicate their availability.

17. Adjournment