

Bus Riders of Saskatoon

March 20, 2023 – 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm - Zoom Video Conference

Facilitator: Curt Recorder: Robert

Regrets: Bob, Jim, Teresa, Sherry, Odin

Present: Robert, Curt, Peter, Jenn, Darcy, Stevie, Nathan, Donna, Lila

1. Welcome
2. Finalization of Agenda.
3. Review of minutes of February 20, 2023 meeting. Minutes were accepted.
4. Date & time for next meeting: Tuesday April 25th , 2023 at 7:00 pm
5. Business Arising from the Minutes -
 - 5.1 Potential meeting with Social Services re: Barriers to riders on SAID
 - We need more information from SAID recipients on this topic
 - 5.2 Community Coalition
 - We have had no additional communication on this
6. Correspondence
 - 6.1 None
- 7 . Access Transit – Bob/Sydney – no report
8. Facebook/Website Issues
 - 8.1 Facebook – Issues from Feb. 19th to March 19th: General transit system issues (5) ATU promotion (4), Specific route (1), Saskatoon Transit PSA (4), Saskatoon Transit policy (1), Fareboxes (3), News Updates (7), BRS announcements (5), Commendations (5), Safety (7), Transit in other centres – Ottawa, Vancouver (2), Spain, Winnipeg (2), Oakville, Regina (3), Germany, Other issues (3)
 - 8.2 Website Content
 - 8.2.1 Other Contributions from group members?
 - Jenn will put something together on ‘rider etiquette but not likely this month.

- Peter will work on something on the difficulties encountered by Transit when changing fare boxes
- 8.2.2 Sub-directory for meeting minutes and other improvements
 - Rob Butz will be engaged to do this – no urgency
- 8.3 Report on change in web hosting
 - We have moved from Black Sun to Rob Butz
 - Peter reported the site is working well and now seems to be faster

9. City of Saskatoon Meetings

9.1 Last meeting: February 27, 2023

- Topic Discussed: Relationship between Saskatoon Transit and Bus Riders of Saskatoon

9.2 Next meeting: Monday March 27, 2023

9.2.1 Agenda Items: Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) – meeting with an intern from Johnson-Shoyama

9.2.2 Attendees: Peter, Robert. Peter will send out invitation and link to the regular attendees

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

10.1 Transportation Master Plan – Prioritization Criteria – new criteria recommended to Council

10.2 Transit Safety and Incident Report

Moved By: Councillor Kirton

That Administration report back on a dedicated transit support workers program. This should include any funding considerations in time for the 2024-2025 budget deliberations.

- Discussion. Safety on Transit is an issue across the country. ATU has begun a national campaign asking for measures to address this.
- Agreed that if BRT is going to be a success, people need to feel safe riding the buses.
- General support for a program of dedicated transit support workers to enhance safety for both riders and operators

- Agreed that BRS and ATU should coordinate efforts to lobby for this program to be included in the next City budget
- 10.3 Next meeting of SPCOT April 4, 2023

11. City Council Meeting – February 22, 2023

- 11.1 There were no items on the agenda related to Transit
- 11.2 Next Council Meeting – March 29th , 2023

12. Breakout Session: “What should our focus be for 2023 and what actions might be undertaken in this regard?” See collection of suggestions here:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1UifKFknqCFIkh9LNYz-UIDZHH9QGFK6HT6b-IOckeBk/edit#gid=0>

- This item was tabled to the April meeting

13. Keep Transit Moving Coalition (Robert)

- 13.1 Meeting: February 28, 2023 at 3:00 pm
 - 13.1.1 Strategic Planning
- 13.2 Next Meeting: March 28, 2023 at 2:00 pm
- [Note: Now moved to April 4 at 2:00 pm]

14. Saskatoon Poverty Reduction Project (SPRP)

- Plans for a large one or two day workshop to review current situation and to update previous Project plan

15. Ongoing Actions

15.1 Councillor Meetings

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

- Successful meeting discussing among other topics the lack of ticket vendors esp. on the west side, problems with the new fare boxes, safety on and around Transit, the budget process and general underfunding of Transit.

16. Other Business

16.1 New Fare Boxes

- Extensive discussion of our communications with Transit on the New Fare Boxes – in particular regarding the problems with their Card Readers – beginning in November when the problem of extra tickets being deducted from fare cards was first noticed.
- Dissatisfaction expressed with the ongoing responses from Transit which have minimized the issue and have made insufficient effort to communicate with the riding public.
- Peter reviewed correspondence with Transit re fare boxes and questions that were posed. Responses did not address the questions fully.
- A range of options for action were discussed ranging from putting a pinned post on Facebook (which will only inform our own membership) to bringing the issue to SPCOT, which would bring broader public attention to the issue.
- Agreed that we will continue our dialogue with Transit and that we will post information for Riders on our FB page.

16.2 Meeting with C. Tarasoff

- Mr. Tarasoff asked to meet with members of the Steering Committee to discuss and get feedback on his concerns about the ability of the BRT system as currently designed to handle large passenger volumes near the proposed new Arena.
- Several potential problems were identified as being of concern regarding the BRT-station on First Avenue and 23rd Street, where the three BRT-lines cross, all of them using the same station platforms along the separated transit lanes:
 - Passenger loading times may exceed the time available when high-capacity (articulated) buses from the three, high-frequency BRT-lines arrive in close succession.
 - Do note that the busses must line up behind each other in the order they arrive at the station, and they cannot depart until the bus(es) in front take off.
 - There is the inevitable scramble (in both directions) along the narrow, obstructed (by the Shelter) and potentially crowded platform when riders alight, board or transfer between the buses. Note: riders

will not know in advance where their particular bus will stop along the platform.

- Congestion may occur on the sidewalk and crosswalk where large crowds from an Arena event congregate to get to the BRT-station platforms, which are located in the middle of the street.
- Members of BRS present at the meeting agreed that the concerns seem to be valid.
- The situation has been brought to the attention of a number of City Councillors and to the ATU in the hope that this potential problem be presented to Transit management and the Transportation Department.
- Agreed to present this issue to BRT Project Manager Rob Dudiak when we meet with him (hopefully) in April.

17. Adjournment