

Bus Riders of Saskatoon

June 26, 2023 – 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm - Zoom Video Conference

Agenda

Facilitator: Lila Recorder: Robert Regrets: Curt, James
Present: Peter, James, Robert, Lila, Nathan, Debra

1. Welcome and Treaty Land Acknowledgement
2. Finalization of Agenda.
3. Review of minutes of May 29, 2023 meeting.
4. Date & time for next meeting: Monday July, 31, 2023 at 7:00 pm
5. Business Arising from the Minutes -
 - 5.1 Potential meeting with Social Services re: Barriers – no new information yet.
6. Correspondence
 - 6.1 E-mail from Amanda Lindgren, Public Engagement, City of Saskatoon (May 31st): “Please let me know if there are any future meetings or topics you’d like to have an engagement connection on and I’m happy to attend or discuss at any time. I’m also happy to begin the pre-engagement discussion we talked about on network re-design for the BRT whenever makes sense for your group – perhaps later in the summer or early fall.”
 - Agreed that early fall might be best. We will also have a chance to connect with Amanda in our regular meetings with Transit.
 - 6.2 Sherry Tarasoff - will be stepping back from the group
 - 6.3 Saskatoon Climate Hub – Setting up an ‘eco-mixer’ at Amigos to network with other groups with an environmental focus. Thursday June 29th at 7:00 p.m. Robert will forward the info to some of the absent members of the group to see if someone is interested in attending.
- 7 . Access Transit – Bob/Sydney
 - No formal report but there was a lengthy conversation about Access services.

8. Facebook/Website Issues

8.1 Facebook topics since last meeting: Saskatoon Transit posts (4), Other transit systems – Regina (1), Brazil (1), Calgary (2), Active transportation (2), ATU (4), Questions to and information from other riders (9), Shelters (1), Fare levels (1), Safety (1), Service issues – delays (2), Air conditioning (4), drive past (1), strollers vs. wheelchairs (1), City budget (1), BRS posts (3), Miscellaneous (2).

8.2 Website Content

8.2.1 Contributions from group members?

8.2.1 Jenn – in progress

9. City of Saskatoon Meetings

9.1 Recent meetings: May 29th (Minutes posted)

9.1.1 Topics Discussed: The budget process as it relates to Transit, staff changes (new director, new public relations person)

9.2 June 26th -

9.2.1 Agenda: Topics: Upcoming service changes, status of public engagements – fare review, conventional network planning, engagement work related to signage on stop closure.

9.2.2 Attendees: Jim , Lila, Peter, Robert

10. Standing Policy Committee on Transportation (SPCOT) – June 6, 2023

10.1 Agenda Item 6.1.1 Cary Tarasoff – 1st Avenue BRT Concerns

- Tarasoff showed video illustration concerns about BRT congestion at the 1st Avenue/22nd Street stop and suggested alternatives

10.2 Agenda Item 7.1.1 Accessible Transit and Bus Stop Signage

Motion to send this recommendation to Council: “This option enables Saskatoon Transit an opportunity to collaborate, explore and test potential accessible signage options with key stakeholders with the goal of identifying and reducing barriers for people with partial or full vision loss. This pilot project would include up to 50 Saskatoon Transit bus stop locations, some of which will be future BRT locations, to a maximum one-time budget of \$25,000.”

10.3 Agenda Item 7.2.1 Transit Detour Process

Referral from 2020: “That the Administration report back on how they have worked to strengthen information and communication on notices for digital, phone and paper approaches for changes to bus routes, including engagement with stakeholders.” Report expected in Q3.

10.4 Next meeting of SPCOT Tuesday, August 8, 2023

11. City Council Meeting

11.1 Meeting - May 31, 2023

11.1.1 Agenda Item 8.2.1 Dedicated Transit Support Workers

Motion Carried: “That Administration report back to the SPC Transportation on options with funding considerations for dedicated transit support workers patrolling terminals and stops and rotating through targeted bus routes as part of the report on the review of the current Community Support Program Service Delivery Model in advance of the 2024-25 Multi-Year Business Plan and Budget deliberations.” Councillor Hill cast the dissenting vote.

11.2 Next Council Meeting – Wednesday, June 28th, 2023

11.2.1 Agenda Item 10.1.1 Transit Bus Replacement

Recommendation: That a budget increase to Capital Project P.00583 – Transit Replacement Bus Project for the purchase of two diesel buses (one 40-foot conventional bus and one 60-foot articulating bus) in the amount of \$2.26 million be approved

- Suggested that we should keep an eye on this issue.

12. Keep Transit Moving Coalition (Robert)

12.1 Meeting: May 30, 2023

- Round table discussion/reporting of interactions with decision makers regarding operational funding for transit and other concerns

12.2 Next meeting: June 27th at 2:00 pm.

13. Saskatoon Poverty Reduction Project (SPRP) – (Lila)

13.1 Meeting – June 19, 2023

- SPRP – raised issues at the G&P meeting on June 14th related to the DEED project. SPRP wants ‘social benefits’ to be considered in such projects.
- Lila has supporting documents and can email them upon request.

14. Ongoing Actions

14.1 Councillor Meetings: Cynthia Block – Tuesday June 6th at 10:00 am.

- Attendees: Robert, Peter, Curt, Sherry, James, Lila
- Topics: Child fares, extended service hours, budget processes, DEED, BRT, safety, Ward 6 issues.

14.2 Next Councillor: Sarina Gersher

- Agreed that we should try to set up a meeting with Councillor Gersher

14.3 Future representation to SPCOT/Council

14.3.1 Budget items: extended week-end and evening hours, child fares, potential cutback concerns.

- Suggestion that BRS write a letter to SPCOT asking that they request costing for potential service improvements.

14.3.2 Engagement items: Support workers on Transit, transit network redesign, BRT, fare review.

15. Other Business

15.1 None

16. Adjournment