

Bus Riders of Saskatoon
July 31, 2023 – 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm - Zoom Video Conference

Facilitator: Curt

Recorder: Lila/Robert

Regrets: Sydney

Present: Lila, Odin, Jenn, James, Curt, Cam, Stevie, Nathan, Robert, Peter

1. Welcome and Treaty Land Acknowledgement

- Curt acknowledged land and treaty rights.
- Attendees introduced themselves as there were people present who did not know one another

2. Finalization of Agenda.

3. Review of minutes of June 26, 2023 meeting. Accepted as circulated.

4. Date & time for next meeting: Sunday August 27th at 7:00 via Zoom

5. Business Arising from the Minutes -

- 5.1 Potential meeting with Social Services re: Barriers. Lila will continue to be on the watch for more information on this.

6. Correspondence

6.1 Cam McMillan: Action suggestions : 1) Potential engagement *specifically* with low-wage riders, such as tabling at some summer events like Jazzfest, tabling at PolyTech and UofS, discussing partnership with temp services like Kelly Services the employment services like job bank downtown and 2) Ways to invite new voices. Possibly starting a Twitter account to utilize “Twitter spaces” or their video services.

- Cam explained that he wants to get the info out that BRS exists trying to improve service in Saskatoon. Esp. to retail and service workers. Cites difficulty making the trip across town 60’s, 8’s, and then #50 makes it a long trip.
- It was noted this can be esp. difficult when you are only working a 3 hour shift.
- Discussion of other scheduling – agreed to defer to a future meeting for a longer discussion.

- The idea of a Twitter account was not discussed. [This has been suggested in the past but the group has not had the resources to assure that it could be monitored and maintained.]

7 . Access Transit – Bob/Sydney

7.1 Access Advisory Committee

- Suggestion from Facebook page that we should be bringing some transit issues to this body

7.2 Access drop-off points at events

- Agreed this could be added to the agenda for our next meeting with Transit.

8. Facebook/Website Issues

8.1 Facebook topics since last meeting: Accessibility (2), City re-Posts (5), BRS business (3), City budget (1), Rider alerts (7), Rider questions (7), Fare boxes (1), Rider behaviour (2), Shelters (2), ATU (1), Lost and found (1), Service complaints (6), Other systems: Victoria (1), BC (2), Calgary (2), Los Angeles (1), Miscellaneous (1)

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: July 27th

9.1.1 Topics Discussed: Meeting with Jim Puffalt, new Director – introduced BRS, fare review, budget discussions, service enhancements, positive rider experience

- commented that the new Director seems optimistic and expressed interest in attending these monthly meetings

9.2 August 21st at 1:30

9.2.1 Agenda: Topics: Upcoming service changes, status of public engagements – fare review, conventional network planning, designated drop off points for Access transit, suggest that Pulfalt read our FB page,

9.2.2 Attendees: Robert, Lila, Peter, Curt expressed interest.

10. Standing Policy Committee on Transportation (SPCOT) – No meeting in July

10.1 Next meeting of SPCOT Tuesday, August 8, 2023

11. City Council Meeting

11.1 Council Meeting – June 28th, 2023

11.1.1 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

11.2 Governance and Priorities Meeting – July 25, 2023

11.2.1 Agenda Item 4.3.1 – Transportation Business Line

- No cuts to Transit service levels were approved for the this phase of budget deliberations
- Increase in budget for driver training was not approved.
- Preliminary approval given for the addition of 2 half time Access driver positions over the next two years

11.3 Council Meeting – July 26, 2023

- There were no items related to Transit on the agenda

11.4 Next Governance and Priorities Meeting – August 16th

11.5 Next Council Meeting – Wednesday, August 28th, 2023

12. Keep Transit Moving Coalition (Robert)

12.1 Meeting: June 27, 2023 – Cancelled

12.2 Meeting: July 25 – No one attended.

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

13.1 Monthly meetings on hold for the summer. Other projects being planned for September or October

14. Ongoing Actions

14.1 Councillor Meetings: Councillor Sarina Gersher July 19th

- Attendees: Robert, Peter, Curt, James
- Topics: Child fares, extended service hours, budget processes, BRT, safety, service standards, Ward 6 issues.
- comment that Councillor Gersher was supportive of improved Transit

14.2 Next Councillor: Suggested Councillor Hill but hasn't responded to invitations. No one pressing at the moment.

14.3 Future representation to SPCOT/Council/Councillors

14.3.1 Budget items: No cuts to current service, no fare increases, continue with fleet renewal

14.3.2 Engagement items: Enhance the service standards document

- Cam suggests we approach 5 riders in each ward as to their issues – bring these to the Ward Councillor and the Mayor. Curt – we know what the problems are, we need to know what the solutions are.

Jenn suggests that when meeting with Councillors we should be telling them what we want

15. Other Business

15.1 Federal government report on transit funding

- Nathan commented that they aren't offering money until 2026. No operating money now from Ottawa while in the U.S. Biden has recently put operating money for Transit as part of federal expenditures. Nathan.... Need to work through the NDP to get progress through the supply and confidence agreement. Notes the lag between orders and delivery of buses. Cites Tom Littman's work on support by provinces for transit.
- Nathan wonders if the U pass could be expanded to staff – Q is it?

16. Adjournment