

Bus Riders of Saskatoon
August 27, 2023 – 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm - Zoom Video Conference

Facilitator: Curt

Recorder: Robert

Regrets: Lila, Darcy, Sydney

Present: Peter, Odin, James, Curt, Robert, Cam

1. Welcome and Treaty Land Acknowledgement
2. Finalization of Agenda.
3. Review of minutes of July 31, 2023 meeting.
4. Date & time for next meeting: Sunday, September 24th
5. Business Arising from the Minutes
 - 5.1 Potential meeting with Social Services re: Barriers – no new information received.
 - 5.2 Twitter? Agreed that we are not prepared to re-open our Twitter account. Cam offered that if we have something we want to get out he can use his personal account.
6. Correspondence
 - 6.1 City of Regina – re: Child Fares – Discussion of response from City of Regina Transit Manager indicating that a year after adopting free fares for children 13 and under, there has been a net revenue gain due to increased ridership.
- 7 . Access Transit – Bob/Sydney
 - 7.1 New FB Group – Access Transit in Saskatoon – This group will work along with the BRS FB page but is dedicated to Access issues.
 - 7.2 Access drop-off points at events – will bring it up with Transit at our next meeting.

8. Facebook/Website Issues

8.1 Facebook topics since last meeting: PSA announcements (9), City Council News (3), Access (3), Schedules (3), Riders alerts (2), Information requests (2), BRS Announcements (2), Other systems (2) – Montreal, New York, Shelters, ATU, Vandalism, App Issues, Parking, Coverage, Misc.(2).

8.2 Website Content

8.2.1 Contributions from group members?

8.2.1.1 Jenn – in progress

8.2.2.1 Cam – in progress

8.2.2 We should remember to reference our website on our FB posts as appropriate.

9. City of Saskatoon Meetings

9.1 Recent meetings: August 21, 2023

9.1.1 Topics Discussed: City budget, free fares for children, fare review, Transit App issues, communicating service alerts, service standards document, issues with the pulse system scheduling, sharing of information.

9.2 Next meeting: September 18th at 2:00

9.2.1 Agenda: Topics: Access drop off points at events, process for handling complaints. Incomplete items from last meeting: Maintenance of a standing list of suggestions for improvement – raising the bar - discussion of priority list.

9.2.2 Attendees: Peter, Curt, Robert, Odin, Cam, James

10. Standing Policy Committee on Transportation (SPCOT) – Tuesday, August 8th

10.1 Correspondence from Inclusion Saskatchewan on Barriers to Public Transportation - June 14, 2022 – This letter highlighted systematic barriers to service with both Access and regular transit – Administration is to provide a report.

10.2 Accessible Loading Zone Ramps – Pilot Project to improve accessibility at a care home, a school, and a government building.

10.3 Next meeting of SPCOT Tuesday, September 5th, 2023

11. City Council Meetings

11.1 Governance and Priorities Meeting – August 16th

11.1.1 Letter from Bus Riders to Council – July 23, 2023 – Robert will send this to Curt for posting.

11.1.2 Presentation from Bus Riders to Council Video – the group watched BRS's presentation to the special budget meeting discussing the Transit budget line

11.1.3 Transit Items under consideration

- Increased training for drivers – not approved
- Addition of a maintenance position - approved
- Increase in Fares – motion to increase base adult fare by 25 cents defeated in a tie vote – this is likely to be brought forward again before the budget is finalized and we should be prepared to solicit support of allies against any increase in fares at this time.
Our meeting – discussion of fare levels and ratio of tax subsidy to fare revenue
- Child Fares – Following the presentation from BRS Council has asked Administration to produce a report on this issue.

11.2 Next Council Meeting – Wednesday, August 30th, 2023 – no Transit related items on the agenda.

12. Keep Transit Moving Coalition (Robert)

12.1 Meeting: August 29, 2023 – Cancelled

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

13.1 Meetings resume in September

14. Ongoing Actions

14.1 Councillor Meetings:

- No Councillor meetings scheduled and none suggested at this time.

15. Other Business

15.1 Statistics Canada report on transit access within 500 m based on 2016 census.

- members uncertain if Saskatoon is meeting its 600 m standard.

15.2 Climate Hub – Agreed that Curt will be a representative of BRS with this Group.

16. Adjournment

Group Norms

All people are explicitly welcome and respected in our meetings and we will strive to include and represent the interests and varying perspectives of riders. We appreciate that we are all volunteers and that we are all learning and doing the best we can in our roles. We bring different life experiences and values to the table but what we share is a desire to work for positive change in our transit system. We aim to achieve changes in the short-term while keeping a long-view in mind and agree to engage constructively and respectfully and not just within the group but also with decision-makers, the media and the general public.

In meetings, we agree to keep comments respectful and brief and respect the role of the meeting facilitator(s) who may need to cut us off from time to time to keep the conversation on track and on time. We will avoid tangents and side-bar conversations and speak one at a time. We will do our best to be accountable for what we take on and will try not to let each other down. If we have committed to a task and can't complete it in a timely manner, we agree that we will pass the task to someone else in the group. When we feel someone is not abiding by these norms, we will gently let them know. Repeated violations of the group norms by any member will be brought to the group to discuss.