

Bus Riders of Saskatoon
September 24, 2023 – 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm - Zoom Video Conference

Agenda

Facilitator: Lila Recorder: Robert Regrets: Curt, Cam
Present: Peter, James, Jenn, Anna, Amanda, Robert, Lila

1. Welcome and Treaty Land Acknowledgement
2. Finalization of Agenda. Addition of 6.4
3. Review of minutes of August 27, 2023 meeting. Minutes approved.
4. Date & time for next meeting: Suggest: Sunday the October 29th at 7:00 via Zoom.
 - Continuation of Sunday meeting day to be reviewed at November meeting.
5. Business Arising from the Minutes
 - 5.1 Potential meeting with Social Services re: Barriers – no new info.
6. Correspondence
 - 6.1 Amanda Lingren – Engagement Session on Service Alerts etc. – Friday, September 22nd - Robert/Lila
 - Robert and Lila attended. Lots of representatives (about 50 in all) there from anti-poverty and disability groups. Main question was how riders would like to receive information about transit stop closures and route detours. Small group sessions asked how riders went about planning a trip and how Transit could improve the way they communicate with the public. It was a good opportunity to establish links with groups such as Inclusion Saskatchewan, Saskatoon Poverty Reduction Project, and the Saskatchewan Intercultural Association.
 - 6.2 Leighland Harapchak - Branding, Marketing and Wayfinding – Invitation - Sept. 26th – now at 1:30 – Lila and Robert will attend.
 - 6.3 Amanda Titman – CNIB – Accessible Transit Campaign.
 - CNIB will hold a ‘Ride Along’ with Councillors and Transit staff in early October. There will be a townhall to discuss accessibility issues on

October 11th at 6:30. Location TBA.. Peter will try to make the meeting. Suggested that we contact Kyle to see if he would like to attend.

6.4 CUTA Young Leaders. Conference November 10 to 12.

- Robert will forward the information to Dominic.

7 . Access Transit – Bob/Sydney

7.1 New Group

7.2 Access drop-off points at events

- No one present to make a report.

8. Facebook/Website Issues

8.1 Facebook topics since last meeting: Transfers, schedules (3), App issues/functioning (3), Shelters (1), Driver commendations (1), Other systems (4) – Edmonton, France, BC, bicycle rack (1), Transit PSA (1), BRS (2), Questions/hints (3), Complaints regarding drivers, (5) – reckless driving, drive by, refusal to lower bus, moving before passenger can get seated. Misc. (1), Lots of sub comments and conversation to do with crowded buses and lack of passenger cooperation to deal with it.

Jenn observed that there were lots of comments on rider etiquette

8.2 Website Content

8.2.1 Contributions from group members?

8.2.1 Jenn – in progress – will prepare a piece on rider etiquette

8.2.2 Cam – in progress

9. City of Saskatoon Meetings

9.1 Recent meetings: September 18, 2023

9.1.1 Topics Discussed: Service to High Schools and full buses, progress on administrative report on Child Fares, departure times from terminals, service to and from the U.of S., Fare Review

9.2 Next meeting: Monday October 30, 1:30

9.2.1 Agenda: Topics: High school bus service.

9.2.2 Attendees: Robert, Lila, Peter, James,

10. Standing Policy Committee on Transportation (SPCOT) – Tuesday, September 5, 2023 – cancelled due to lack of quorum

10.1 No items specific to transit were on the agenda.

10.2 Next meeting of SPCOT Tuesday, October 3, 2023 – agenda TBA

- plan to support high school parents if appropriate, Jenn could possibly make the meeting.

11. City Council Meetings - Next Council Meeting – Wednesday, August 30th, 2023

11.1 Recommendation that the SPCOT members remain the same for 2024: SPC on Transportation Councillor R. Donauer, Councillor B. Dubois, Councillor D. Hill, Councillor S. Gersher, Councillor D. Kirton

12. Keep Transit Moving Coalition (Robert)

12.1 Meeting: Tuesday September 26

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

13.1 Full Day Event – Monday September 25, 2023

- Three items related to Transit in the background information – work for free transit, free wifi on the buses, re-activation of the Transit Action Team.

14. Ongoing Actions

14.1 Councillor Meetings: None planned

14.2 Child free fares

- Identification of potential allies: SCOA, Community Clinic, Quint, Saskatoon Intercultural Association, Saskatoon Tribal Council, SPRP.

15. Other Business

15.1 Transit service to high schools – suggestions for further action? Amanda attended and spoke to the group. Her children go to high school from Stonebridge. She has done several interviews on the subject. This issue has been in place for years. Many students are not taking the bus because of it not being reliable. Prior to Covid there were over 100 buses on the road daily and now Transit only has about 80 buses. Therefore it is hard to put on extra buses. There is a second bus that follows the 17 but

there isn't one that follows the 83. They keep saying that in October the riders decrease – she doesn't think that they have ever explored why they decrease – it isn't because the need decreases, it is because people give up. This isn't only a Stonebridge issue. This happens in other neighbourhoods. There are a lot of newcomers who don't always have the ability to buy a car to drive their children so for them the bus is essential. Transit has said that they will consult with the School Administrators regarding start times. She feels that there needs to be more buses purchased. Still kids are being left behind this past week. Walter Murray has ordered a lot more bike racks as they have a large increase in students arriving by bicycle. There are fears of what will happen when cold weather sets in. Suggestions for action: Presentation at SPCOT, letters to Councillors, contacting school board members.

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.