

**Bus Riders of Saskatoon**  
**November 26, 2023 – 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm - Zoom Video Conference**

Draft Agenda

Facilitator: James                      Recorder: Robert

Present : James, Dave, Lila, Jenn, Bob, Robert, Lila, Curt, Peter, Stevie, Odin

1. Welcome and Treaty Land Acknowledgement – James gave the acknowledgement.
2. Finalization of Agenda. Accepted as circulated.
3. Review of minutes of October 29, 2023 meeting. Accepted as circulated.
4. Date & time for next meeting. Sunday January 28<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm
5. Business Arising from the Minutes
  - 5.1 None
6. Correspondence
  - 6.1 Councillor Jeffries: “Thank you for the nuanced comments on the BRS page. As always with your thoughts on policy, much appreciated.”
  - 6.2 Councillor Gersher: E-mail seeking input on Transit budget items.
7. Access Transit – Bob/Sydney – no report
  - 7.1 New Group
  - 7.2 Access drop-off points at events
  - 7.3 Barriers to acquiring reduced fare passes for SAID recipients
  - 7.4 Presentation to SPCOT – November 1, 2023 re Agenda Item 7.3.1 Access response to Inclusion Saskatchewan Letter
8. Facebook/Website Issues
  - 8.1 Facebook issues since last meeting: Reposting of Transit Information/PSAs (19); Service complaints: Failure to stop (2), generally poor service (1), poor driving (3), no response to service complaints (1), safety and

security (4), late buses (1), problems with passes (2), driver behaviour (1), behaviour of other riders (1); Posts from BRS Admin. (13); Media: Local (7); Access Transit (1); Info from Riders (4); Questions from Riders (5); ATU (1); Commendations (2); Other systems: BC (1), Winnipeg (1), New York City (1), general (2) = 73 posts (up from 60 last month. Greatest reach: 1.1 K.

## 8.2 Website Content

### 8.2.1 Contributions from group members?

8.2.1.1 Jenn – Bus Etiquette – posted October 30<sup>th</sup> – Posted version wasn't complete. Peter will repost.

8.1.2.2 Cam – still in progress

### 8.3 General tone of our FB page – New Measures and Progress?

- Group rules posted and asked people to sign off on the rules. Only a few did.
- One person was put on the 28 day suspension – but some technical difficulties with FB in applying this.
- Was an offer by a member to do some group admin. Suggested that we invite her to attend the next meeting. Suggested first that we engage her in conversation to be sure she would meet our needs as an administrator.
- New features are more time consuming but we are screening content better. Still fine tuning the security features.
- Suggested that we take it as it comes.

## 9. City of Saskatoon Meetings

### 9.1 Next meeting: Monday December 11, 2023

9.1.1 Agenda: Topics: Hope to have someone from Transit who can discuss new funding.

9.1.2 Attendees: James, Robert, Odin, Curt, Lila, Peter

## 10. Standing Policy Committee on Transportation (SPCOT)

### 10.1. Regular Meeting - Tuesday, November 1, 2023

#### 10.1.1 Agenda Item 7.3.2 Status of Saskatoon Transit Service for Winter

- Ridership has recovered to pre-Covid levels
- Size of fleet has been reduced from 145 to 126 since 2018
- Peak book out reduced from 101 to 84
- Average age up from 8.6 years to 11.4 years
- The risk of service cuts throughout the winter of 2023 and 2024 has increased from 2022
- Two new battery electric buses are expected to arrive in Q1 of 2024 and the eight diesel buses are expected to arrive in Q3 of 2024

## 11. City Council Meetings - Council Meeting – November 22, 2023

- No Transit items on the agenda

## 12. Keep Transit Moving Coalition (Robert)

12.1 Meetings: None attended.

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

- Have had some meetings with Transit
- Really want Transit to work well and would like to see ‘free’ transit
- Note that people without the fare are not barred from boarding
- SPRP – plan a meet up at Station 20 on December 19 – all welcome

## 14. Ongoing Actions

14.1 Councillor Meetings: None recommended.

14.2 Budget Input – November 28, 29, 30<sup>th</sup> - Child fares, Transit Support Officers, New Bus Purchases, Fare Freeze – It looks like Council may support all of these initiatives and we will support them. Robert has requested to speak to Council at their Budget session.

14.3 Media interviews: Global, CTV – Robert, BRS media spokesperson gave a description of the interviews.

## 15. Other Business

15.1 Announcement of funding for BRT Greenline and for 55 new buses.

- Discussion of history of the proposals – “a labyrinth of stupidity”

- Background of the struggle for the City to access ICIP money
  - Funding share for this program has been Federal 47%, Provincial 33% and City 29%
  - This program is only for ten years so this announcement is squeaking in under the wire
  - Likely that new applications will have to go in to fund the red and blue lines
- 15.2 Indigenous Consultation – City has asked BRS to contribute names to participate. Robert will approach some Indigenous members of BRS.
- 15.3 General discussion of fare evasion and enforcement measures.

## 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.