

**Bus Riders of Saskatoon**  
**January 28, 2024 – 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm - Zoom Video Conference**

Facilitator: Recorder: Robert Regrets: Sidney

Present: Odin, Curt, Lila, Peter, Deb, Robert, Jenn, James

1. Welcome and Treaty Land Acknowledgement
2. Finalization of Agenda. Accepted as amended – see 15.2 & 15.3
3. Review of minutes of November 26<sup>th</sup> meeting. Approved.
4. Date & time for next meeting: Sunday February 25 at 7:00 pm
5. Business Arising from the Minutes
  - 5.1 Indigenous Consultation: Nathan W. and Sharon O. were selected by Saskatoon Transit to participate as Transit users.
6. Correspondence
  - 6.1 Thompson Kinge – BRT Public Art Engagement – Feb. 7<sup>th</sup> and/or 9<sup>th</sup>
    - Jenn offered to represent BRS on Feb. 7<sup>th</sup> in person from 6:30 – 8:00
    - Odin offered to represent BRS on Feb. 9<sup>th</sup> beginning at 1:30 via Zoom
    - Robert will advise Mr. King to contact Jenn and Odin
  - 6.2 Isaac Dankwah - 2nd Avenue N. Consultation – Feb. 7<sup>th</sup> in person from 4 – 6 downstairs at the Francis Morrison library.
    - Lila W. and Peter offered to represent BRS
    - Robert will advise Mr. Dankwah to contact Lila and Peter
  - 6.3 Sarina Gersher – Advised us that an opportunity to talk about long-term fleet renewal when the CUTRIC (Canadian Urban Transit Research and Innovation Consortium) electrification study is presented. There was discussion of the scope of this study.

6.4 Sarah Maceda-Maciel (Keep Transit Moving) – Open Letter to Federal Government re Federal Budget. It was agreed that BRS will sign on. Robert will advise KTM.

6.5 Jory Vemette – Climate Hub – There will be a meeting with Mayor and Councillor(s) – Feb. 5, 2024 from 7:00 to 9:00 in person at City Hall. . Curt and Robert will attend this meeting to represent Bus Riders.

## 7 . Access Transit – Bob/Sydney

7.1 Deb told us about the procedure for applying and getting accepted for Access services. Peter noted that Access was going to acquire new software to make it easier to book. There has been an increase in Access users. Access serves everywhere within City limits. There were questions as to whether some Access users could use the regular system and whether Access users know that they can take the regular system.

Q. Is Access Transit growing enough to meet the increasing demand? Agreed that Bus Riders should step up our advocacy efforts for Access services. Could approach SCOA regarding their Bus Buddies program.

## 8. Facebook/Website Issues

### 8.1 Facebook issues since last meeting:

December: Reposting of Transit Info/ PSAs (9), Service complaints: Fare boxes (1), Driver (1), Late bus (2), Long ride (1), Music on buses (2); Posts from BRS Admin. (9); Questions from Riders (8); Info for Riders (3); Commendation – BRS (1); ATU (1); Other systems (7); Shelters (2); Transit Budget (2); Lost and Found (3); Misc. (4) = 57 posts (down from 73 last month). Greatest reach 1.1 K – found phone.

January: Reposting of Transit Information/PSAs (5); Service complaints – Late bus (5), Crowded buses (3), Customer Service (1); Posts from BRS Admin. (8); Questions from Riders (9); Info for Riders (5); Commendation – Drivers (1); Other systems (5); Shelters (1); Misc. (1). = 45 posts (down from 57 last month). Greatest reach 1.1 k – Service Warnings.

## 8.2 Website Content

### 8.2.1 Contributions from group members?

#### 8.2.1.1 Cam – in progress

8.3 General tone of our FB page – New Measures and Progress? Agreed that the tone is more positive after a disruptive member has been excluded.

## 9. City of Saskatoon Meetings

### 9.1 Meeting: Monday December 11, 2023

9.1.1 Met with Rob Dudiak BRT project manager. Learned that additional BRT funding is anticipated. Received an update on new bus orders.

### 9.2 Meeting: Monday January 15, 2024

9.2.1 General discussion with new Director, Mike Moellenbeck; Service levels; fleet renewal; closed door policy; upcoming public engagement. Discussion of the hybrid meeting experience. Members would prefer to meet either in person or via Zoom rather than hybrid – depending on topics at hand.

### 9.3 Next meeting: Monday February 12<sup>th</sup> at 1:30. This will be a hybrid meeting as the room as already been booked.

9.3.1 Agenda: Topics: Growth in need – How to develop longer term plans past the next two years – service improvements (including Access) with milestones. We would like to know what the process is. What service improvements does Transit have in mind? How has Transit handled winter conditions?

9.3.2 Attendees: Robert, Lila, Curt, Peter, (Odin)

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

### 10.1. Regular Meeting - Tuesday, December 5, 2023

- Item 7.2.4 Long Term Fleet Renewal and Funding Strategy Update
  - 10 new buses to be delivered in 2024
  - Increased costs have resulted in cheaper 40 passenger rather than 60 passenger buses and fewer electric buses.
  - Strategy to have 30 new buses in 2025 and 19 in 2026

## 10.2 Regular Meeting – Tuesday, January 9<sup>th</sup>

- Item 8.3.2 Processes and Policies to Manage Overcapacity Buses and Routes
  - Bus Riders Presentation
    - Highlighted current service incapacity.
    - Questioned Transit’s ability to gather passenger data
    - Recommended long term planning to solve current capacity issues but also to improve service levels
    - Questioned the Renewal Strategy as it appears only to address current fleet deterioration but doesn’t plan for future growth.
  - Other presenters provided anecdotal data which complemented what we presented
  - Transit acknowledged the extent of current problems which extend beyond routes serving high schools and the University.
  - Motion One: That the Administration provide a report on how other cities handle over capacity buses and if there are policies in this regard.
  - Motion Two: That the Administration evaluate reporting options for providing more detailed reporting on bus route capacity including a dashboard format.

## 11. City Council Meetings

### 11.1 Council Meeting – December 20, 2023

- Agenda Item 8.2.1 – Transit Long Term Fleet Renewal and Funding Strategy approved unanimously.

### 11.2 Council Meeting – January 31, 2024

- No Transit related items on the agenda.

## 12. Keep Transit Moving Coalition (Robert)

12.1 Meetings: None attended. Next meeting – Tuesday January 30<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 Eastern Time. Lila interested in attending.

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

## 14. Ongoing Actions

14.1 Councillor Meetings: Discussion but no particular need identified

14.2 Budget Input – November 28, 29, 30<sup>th</sup> - Child fares, Transit Support Officers, New Bus Purchases, Fare Freeze – Update. (Fare review will be part of a ‘low income support’ package for low income people. )

14.3 Media interviews: CBC French on overcapacity.

## 15. Other Business

15.1 Information - Regina Transit – Fleet Renewal – approval of purchase of a large number of electric buses

15.2 Pro-Active projects. Suggested that BRS has been mostly reactive rather than proactive. Discussion tabled until the next meeting.

15.3 Treaty Land Acknowledgement – Jenn will put one together

## 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.