

Bus Riders of Saskatoon
February 25, 2024 – 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm - Zoom Video Conference

Facilitator: Curt Recorder: Robert Regrets: (Nathan)
Attending: Curt, Robert, Sydney, Odin, Jenn, Ana, Lila, James, Peter

1. Welcome and Treaty Land Acknowledgement:

“I would like to begin by acknowledging that we are on treaty land referred to as Treaty 6 Territory and the City of Saskatoon and that all of the people here are beneficiaries of this treaty. Treaty 6 encompasses the lands of the Cree, Nakota, Dakota, Saulteaux (*SOE-TOE*) and the homeland of the Metis Nation. We are dedicated to ensuring that the spirit of Reconciliation and Treaty 6 is honoured and respected. This acknowledgement also reaffirms our relationship with one another, and we are committed to move forward in partnership with Indigenous Nations in the spirit of reconciliation and collaboration. “

2. Finalization of Agenda.

3. Review of minutes of January 28th meeting. Approved.

4. Date & time for next meeting: Set for Sunday March 24th at 7:00 pm

5. Business Arising from the Minutes

5.1 Public Engagement – BRT Public Art – Jenn, Odin

Jenn reported on the in-person engagement at the Wonderhub. Stamping on pavement will be shallow so freezing water shouldn't be an issue. Toronto firm will be putting together the design. Sketches will be produced for feedback at a later date. Attendees were very clear that the designs should be Saskatchewan based.

Odin reported on the online session. Concern expressed that the stamps could cause issues for those using mobility devices.

5.2 Public Engagement – 2nd Avenue North – Lila

Lila reported on the session She expressed disappointment that there were no Indigenous people present. Proposal would help with access of school buses and Access Transit

5.3 Climate Hub – Meeting with Mayor & 2 Councillors – Curt, Robert
Curt and Robert explained the purpose of the meeting and Bus Riders
connection with Climate Hub

5.4 Future Plan of action – see 14.1

6. Correspondence

6.1 CBC Ottawa – re: On Demand Transit – Robert reported on a call he
received asking about the success of On Demand in Saskatoon.

6.2 Affinity Credit Union re : Balance of \$384.86. Letter received warning
of account closure due to inactivity. Robert sent an email requesting
the account be kept open.

7 . Access Transit – Bob/Sydney

7.1 Sydney reported that Access is slowly making their way to the new
programs. Hopefully the improvements will continue.

8. Facebook/Website Issues

8.1 Facebook issues since last meeting:

February: Reposting of Transit Info/PSAs (1); Service complaints – Late bus (2),
Drivers – (1); Posts from BRS Admin. (2); Questions from Riders (1); Info for Riders
(2); Commendations (2); Other systems (4); Shelters (1); Safety (2); Stop
maintenance – snow (1) = 22 posts (down from 45 last month). Greatest reach
929 – Snow removal at bus stop.

8.2 General tone of our FB page – New Measures and Progress – Agreed
that this is much improved after restricting contributions from one
individual

8.3 Website Content

8.3.1 Contributions from group members?

8.3.1.1 Cam – in progress

8.3.2 Posting of Minutes. Curt will double check to be sure that the
postings have worked as intended.

9. City of Saskatoon Meetings

9.1 Meeting: Monday, February 12: Discussion of long term planning – content and process; implementation of child fares, signage issues.

9.2 Next meeting: Monday March 11 via Zoom

9.2.1 Agenda: Proposed Topics: Fleet renewal; implementation of child fares.

9.2.2 Attendees: Robert, Peter, Odin, potentially others

10. Standing Policy Committee on Transportation (SPCOT)

10.1. Regular Meeting - Tuesday, February 6, 2024

- Item 7.3.1 Saskatoon Transit Detours Process
 - Transit report to Councillors discussed public engagement on this topic and measures to improve information to the public
 - In a letter, BRS thanked Transit for their work on this and for their public engagement but reiterated that: “any casual transit user – when standing beside any bus stop in the city – should be able to assume that the stop is in use unless there is a clear message posted at the stop indicating otherwise.”
 - BRS also asked that the City work to minimize the duration and number stop closures and route detours

11. City Council Meetings

11.1 Council Meeting – January 31, 2024

- No Transit related items on the agenda.

11.2 Council Meeting – February 28, 2024

- Agenda Item 8.3.5 Innovation Housing Grant
 - 25 affordable rental units in Rosewood – 7 minute walk from Transit stop
- Agenda Item 8.4.1 Park and Ride Agreement with SHA
 - 87 space lot established at Avenue C and 24th Street
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12. Keep Transit Moving Coalition (Robert)

12.1 Meeting: Tuesday January 30th

- Discussion of Budget Letter to Federal Government to support Transit
- Over 100 organizations signed on including BRS and Saskatoon Cycles

12.2 Next meeting: Tuesday, February 27, 3:00 pm

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

Lila thanked the group for those who participated in the survey that she had distributed.

14. Ongoing Actions

14.1 Prioritization of potential Transit improvements. Established a subcommittee to prioritize the lists of needed improvements. Odin, Peter, Robert.

14.2 Councillor Meetings: Discussion of strategy. Agreed that we should prioritize a 'want list' for discussion with individual councillors prior to the Civic Election.

15. Other Business

15.1 None presented.

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.