

Bus Riders of Saskatoon

March 24, 2024 – 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm - Zoom Video Conference

Facilitator: Jenn

Recorder: Robert

Regrets:

Present: Peter, Curt, Lila, Jenn, Nathan, Dave, Odin, Robert

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 February 25th meeting. Approved.

4. Date & time for next meeting: Sunday April 28th at 7:00 pm

5. Business Arising from the Minutes

5.1 Posting of Minutes – problem seems to be fixed.

6. Correspondence

6.1 Thomas Kinge - Child Fares – Invitation for Engagement – March 14, 19, 21. – Peter, Odin, Robert, Lila – Discussion agenda 15.2

6.2 Leland Hrapchuk – Child Fares – Engagement Information

7 . Access Transit – Bob/Sydney

7.1 Delays in booking seem to be a new problem esp. before end of month pay day when there is more traffic – suggested we raise this at the next meeting with Transit.

- Suggest that Access User Group FB page be better publicized
- Concern that users aren't able to book more than 3 days in advance if there are medical appointments that have been finalized much earlier
- Robert will see if he can get more information from the Access User Group FB

8. Facebook/Website Issues

8.1 Facebook Membership – up to 1800

8.2 Facebook issues since last meeting:

March : Bus shelters/stops (3); Service complaints (4); Posts from BRS Admin – Feedback Request (1), PSAs (13); Questions from Riders (6); Info offered by Riders (9); PSAs posted by Riders (10); Info on other systems (5); Commendations (2); Fare evasion (1); Misc. (5) = 59 posts (up from 22 last month); Greatest reach 951 – Rider advice to prepare for storm conditions.

9. City of Saskatoon Meetings

9.1 Meeting: Monday, March 11: In depth discussion of Asset Management Plan, potential route/schedule adjustments for July 1, issues with data gathering distribution system affecting apps, upcoming child fare engagement opportunities.

- Was a feeling that we did not get answers to our questions on fleet renewal.
- Questions were – why are we buying electric buses so early before we know what all of the intricacies are of implementation; why are we continuing to purchase diesel buses well into the plan – seems that these priorities should be reversed. Some concern regarding the need to examine the configuration of the interior of the buses to accommodate larger number of passengers.

- A lengthy discussion occurred on the merits/demerits of electric buses at this time
 - Discussion of how we can have better success in communicating with Transit.
 - Tabled until our next meeting.
- 9.2 Next meeting: Monday April 15 via Zoom at 1:30 pm
- 9.2.1 Agenda: Topics: Sub-Committee suggests a discussion of Transit's experience of handling snow and ice events this past winter (we will ask to have the Operations Manager present at the meeting ; concern of long waits on the phone for those booking Access;
- 9.2.2 Attendees: Odin, Curt, Peter, Robert, Dave, others
10. Standing Policy Committee on Transportation (SPCOT)
- 10.1. Regular Meeting - Tuesday, March 5, 2024
- No Transit related items on the agenda for this meeting
- 10.2 Regular Meeting – Tuesday April 2, 2:00 pm
- No Transit related items on the agenda for this meeting.
11. City Council Meetings
- 11.1 Council Meeting – March 27, 2024
- No Transit related items on the agenda for this meeting.
12. Keep Transit Moving Coalition (Robert)
- 12.1 Meeting: Tuesday February 27th. No one from BRS attended.
- 12.2 Next meeting: Tuesday, March 26, 4:00 pm ET
- Robert, Lila plan to attend the meeting.
13. Saskatoon Poverty Reduction Project (SPRP) – (Lila)
- No report available.
14. Climate Hub – Curt
- This umbrella group meets weekly.
 - Little directly concerned with Transit at this time.

15. Ongoing Actions

15.1 Prioritization of potential Transit improvements – Peter, Odin, Robert

- Subcommittee has met twice since the last meeting
- Recommend that we bring ‘winter Transit’ forward at the next meeting with Transit and that we focus on ‘child fares’ for the May meeting.

15.2 Child Fare engagement

- Discussion on these sessions – participants, areas of focus,

15.3 Councillor Meetings: Suggest we meet with Councillor Loewen to discuss ‘transit as an essential service’.

- Discussion of what this means for Transit
 - Proper investment to be sure system functions
 - Transit shouldn’t just survive, it should thrive
- Robert offered to contact Councillor Loewen

15.4 Recommendation: Jarrett Walker’s revised edition of Human Transit

16. Other Business

16.1

17. 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.