

## Meeting minutes for the May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024 BRS-Transit Meeting at 1:30 pm

### Attendance:

- BRS
  - o Odin Swidzinski, Transit Coordinator
  - o Dave Cunningham, Member
  - o Peter Gallen, Member
  - o Curt McCoshen, Member
  - o Lila Wagner, Member
- Transit
  - o Corey Shrigley, Customer Service & Engagement Manager
  - o Braden Cline, Johnson-Shoyama Executive Intern

**Regrets:** Robert Clipperton

### Administrative issues:

For this meeting, Peter chaired the meeting and Odin prepared the minutes.

### Old business:

- A BRS member expressed concerns about construction on 24<sup>th</sup> Street between 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue in June and how it will impact Access Transit
  - o Transit has not received any information concerning construction from the Planning department, but promised to communicate with Access and then inform BRS

### New business:

- Service changes
  - o Stonebridge
    - Transit reports that service to Stonebridge would more or less remain the same
  - o High schools
    - Transit expects similar service levels this year
      - No extra high school specials as Transit still has the same # buses and will until Q2 of 2025
    - All schools are showing a slight increase from 2023 (50 people per school)
    - High school students are using fares in mornings, but lots of fare evasion in the afternoon: supervisors are monitoring the schools
    - Supervisors will be meeting buses outside of high schools
    - Transit will launch a communication plan to high school students about moving to back of the bus, don't have a backpack in a seat, how to use the bus for the first time

- July signup and September signup, start times and end times still unclear, adjust as best they can
  - Stand-by bus in June, Route 16 and the 40s are falling behind because of construction, 2 because of many passengers
    - Capacity in summer, less so in summer, shortage of drivers
    - Add a bus to get through construction season
  - Don't expect much frequency changes
  - June changes
    - Improve service for Brighton, Meadows, Rosewood, and Aspen Ridge
    - Expanding Rosewood, adding on-demand to Aspen Ridge
    - Connecting Brighton w/ Nelson Road
    - Route 86 adjusted
    - Route 87 to go to Market Drive
    - On-Demand Service expanded
    - 40 mins for Route 29 from 6:30 am to 6:30 pm Mon-Fri
    - 30-minute frequency for Route 87 from 6:30 am to 6:30 pm Mon-Fri
    - 30-minute frequency for Route 86 during the day, 60-minute frequency during the night
  - Service tiers
    - Tier 1 – AM&PM peak only from 6:30 am to 6:30 pm Mon-Fri; 25%+
    - Tier 2 – AM&PM from 6:30 am to 6:30 pm Mon-Fri; 50%+
    - Tier 3 – Full service; 90%+ and high ridership
  - Nine new stops for On-demand in Aspen Ridge and Kensington
  - Route 86 expanded to Rosewood
  - Route 29 will change as Holmwood develops
  - Route 29 University will only operate during the university term like the Route 13, reduce pressure on Route 26
  - 3 or 4 more buses needed to return to 30-minute services on Route 43, and will need a similar amount for several routes in order to return to a 30-minute service across the board
  - Route maps to be released after the 21<sup>ST</sup>
    - These maps may be tweaked after August
- College Drive:
- Transit met with the University and the USSU, will stay on College Drive during the construction season
    - Delays will affect construction heading east and west, but most drivers are avoiding areas
    - Construction won't end until at least mid-September so it will affect students
    - Bus stops are to be east of Cumberland and west of Hospital Drive
    - Stickers to be placed at Place Riel to tell people to not go to the stops on Munroe Avenue, but to the designated stops

- Only one lane heading east, but two west
  - Delays are primarily eastbound
  - Transit to coordinate with the city to keep the bus lane open to Cumberland to prevent delays
- Wiggins intersection:
  - Transit recommended that the bike lane go down Munroe Avenue, Transit needs access onto campus, and Transit wants to make sure that buses can still turn right off Wiggins
- A BRS member suggested that a dedicated bus lane be put in place for the duration of construction
  - Transit noted that the Transportation Department is discouraging drivers from going on College Drive, but Transit is not going to get a dedicated lane during the construction
- Electric buses
  - Transit will receive the previously ordered 2 electric buses in June or July
  - Transit is working closely with the ATU so they will have all people trained to operate and maintain the electric buses
  - Charging infrastructure not yet completed, but will likely use the same charger that they used for the trial run
  - Transit will be testing them on different routes to determine where electric buses can be best used
  - Was delayed from when it was originally ordered
  - Transit will let operators know they may be on an electric bus for a given shift (like they do with articulated buses)
- Staff changes
  - Internal announcement and biography of the newly appointed Access Transit Manager will be submitted to BRS to be sent after the meeting
  - Transit Planning Manager position is still vacant
    - Ideally will hire someone who has experience in transit planning management
    - Will likely be “a stepping stone rather than a destination”
    - Will oversee an entire transit system rather than a mere handful of lines
  - Experience Transit position
    - Transit noted that it is an ATU staff position, was never posted
      - Unclear if the person who had it will return or if someone else will replace them
  - Other changes?
    - Additional Community Support Workers working in conjunction with the Fire Department should be starting this July
      - Details being hammered out, but major staff change because they’ll be supporting Transit

- Fire Department oversees the CSWs rather than police due to them responding to encampments and homeless people
  - Operations department to serve as liaison, arriving at same time, give us some resources, eyes at terminals and on buses
  - Feedback on the program should be brought to Transit
- Organizational charts of the Transit Department:
  - Cory agreed to put an organizational chart together and to forward it to BRS
- Other issues:
  - Meetings between BRS and Transit might continue throughout the civic election's black-out in September/October/November if we focus on forwarding complaints and discussing routine issues
  - A BRS member asked if there is a method for Transit to communicate issues where the city has failed to make any headway
    - Transit conveyed that their hands are a bit tied, and noted that there is an "expectation" by the people of Saskatoon for Transit to provide good service

Next meeting to be on Monday, June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024 @ 1:30 pm on Zoom