

Bus Riders of Saskatoon
June 2 – 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm - Zoom Video Conference

Present: Curt, MacKenzie, Lila, Jim, Robert, Rhealene, Jenn, Nathan, Odin, Peter
(arrived 8:45)

Facilitator: Jenn Recorder: Robert Regrets:

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 April 28, 2024 meeting. Accepted.

4. Date & time for next meeting: Sunday, September 8, 2024 unless urgent business arises.

5. Business Arising from the Minutes

5.1 Engagement session – pavement stamping (Jenn)

- Group gave suggestions to have an Indigenous theme – however a Saskatoon berry is what will be used.
- Felt that the decision had pretty much been made prior to the consultation – were dismissive of public suggestions
- Company retained for this week from Toronto as they were the lowest bidder.
- Jenn says she will be invited back to future engagement on this issue

6. Correspondence

6.1 Isaac Dankwah – City of Saskatoon – Engagement - 2nd Ave. N. Parking and Public Realm - The next engagement activity is taking place on:

Date: **Wednesday, June 12, 2024**

Location: **MS Teams Online**

Time: **6:30 pm – 7:30 pm**

An online survey will be available from June 10 to 24, 2024 on the project website at: <https://www.saskatoon.ca/engage/2nd-Ave-Parking>

- Lila attended the previous session and is willing to attend this one.

6.2 Clipperton to SPRP re: Child Fares – hopefully this group will present at the SPCOT meeting.

7 . Access Transit – Bob/Sydney

7.1 No report

- Concerns are that it is difficult to get rides if you are not on a regular pick up schedule
- BRS should try to meet with the new Director of Access – Brittany Hadley - once she has been in the job a little longer – to be discussed at the September meeting.

8. Facebook/Website Issues

8.1 Facebook issues since last meeting:

May: BRS Admin (5), COS Reports (4), Commendations (1), Questions from Riders (2), Info offered by Riders (2), ATU Reposts – re violence on buses (3), Rider Safety (5), Other systems (12), Service issues (3), Other reposts (1), Misc. (1) = 39 (down from 46 last month). Greatest reach 3200 – Warning about aggressive male. Views in past 30 days. Views in past 30 days 8812.

9. City of Saskatoon Meetings

9.1 Meeting: Monday, May 13th @ 1:30 pm

- Discussion Topics: Routes experiencing congestion – #2, #16, #40, Stonebridge; projected service changes effective July 1, congestion on College Drive due to construction, expected arrival of two new electric buses, staff changes.

9.2 Next meeting: Monday June 17th @ 1:30 via Zoom

9.2.1 Agenda: Topics: seems that Tracy Davis – Fleet and Maintenance Manager – is off work.

- Other topics? Safety on the buses for riders and drivers.

9.2.2 Attendees: Robert, Peter, Odin, Jenn, Lila, Curt, perhaps others

10. Standing Policy Committee on Transportation (SPCOT)

10.1. Regular Meeting – Tuesday May 7, 2:00 pm

- Presentation by a rider on the poor condition of bus stop at Preston Avenue and 108th Street (see shared post on our FB page).

10.2 Regular Meeting – Tuesday, June 4th at 2:00 pm

- 6.1.1 Mary Fedun – State of Bus Safety Issues
- 7.1.1 Transit Report – Implementing Free Child Fare
- 7.3.1 Transportation Referral List
- 7.3.2 Saskatoon Transit 2023 Annual Report

11. City Council Meetings

11.1 Council Meeting - May 29nd, 2024

- No transit related items were on the agenda.

12. Keep Transit Moving Coalition (Robert)

12.1 Meeting: Tuesday April 30th – there did not seem to be a meeting on this date. No communications have been received regarding subsequent meetings.

- Robert – will try to determine what is happening with this group

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

- Group is concerned about some of the issues in our core neighbourhoods
- A lot of the problems on the buses are due to a lack of basic services in the community – no washrooms, no shelter, no laundry facilities

14. Climate Hub – Curt

- No report

15. Ongoing Actions

15.1 Child Fare engagement – Discuss recommendations of Transit to SPCOT and BRS response

- Noted that children ride free in most of the world
- In Canada, best if it is done by municipalities.
- ATU seems to be in line with Transit’s recommendations
- New Support Officers may prevent some of the anticipated problems
- Robert will present to SPCOT to voice our support to the options.

15.2 Councillor Meetings

15.2.1 Upcoming discussion with Councillor Gough – Friday June 7th at 3:30

- Attendees: (Jenn), Lila, Odin, Curt, Robert, Jim, Peter
- List of topics – add security on buses to the list
- Discussion of potential obstacles for improving Transit

15.2.2 Next Councillor – Block – Robert will set this up

15.2.3 Civic Election Strategy

- Need to keep an eye on what potential candidates are saying on Transit – Russell Nadin has announced he is running in Ward One – appears to be pro-Transit
- We are losing a number of supportive Councillors.
- Reference to “Connecting BC” – to organize support for Transit service on both the municipal and provincial elections

15.3 Meeting with ATU – To be arranged – Robert will set this up.

15.4 Congestion on College Drive (see draft brief)

- Peter reported on the situation with bus delays during construction
- Suggested institution of a queue jump system on the University Bridge to minimize Transit delays. City could also encourage drivers to use other routes.
- A member described his personal experiences with this disruption
- Plan to take suggestions up with Administration to try to get some changes

16. Other Business

16.1 Service Changes – Public meetings – May 21, 22. – unsure if anyone attended.

16.2 Blockage on 24th Street - Pride Parade June 22nd and construction between 5th and 6th avenue – What are the plans for Access and Route #5?

17. Adjournment