

## Bus Riders of Saskatoon

October 6, 2024 – 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm – Zoom Video Conference

Facilitator: Curt                      Recorders: Odin, Robert              Regrets:

Present: Lila, Bhuvnesh, Jenn, James, Peter, Terry, Mackenzie

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. Introductions

3. Finalization of Agenda

4. Review of minutes of September 8, 2024 meeting: the minutes were approved without any modifications.

5. Date and time for next meeting: Sunday November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024 @ 7 pm

6. Business arising from the minutes

a. Tracey Mitchell and safety on buses

7. Correspondence

a. BRS has received an invitation to meet with Carey Tarasoff:

i. BRS intended to meet with the mayoral candidates and has received a list of potential dates

8. Access Transit:

a. Robert was thinking of potentially having a meeting with the Access Transit manager

i. General update and the Access Transit manager's views on Access Transit

b. A member requested that appreciation be made to Access Transit for being able to get to their apartment building during construction

9. Facebook and website issues:

a. Facebook issues since last meeting: A lot of traffic in the past month. Topics included: cleanliness, safety, transit support workers, route design and schedules including route 43, fare evasion, parking of other vehicles on bus stops, delayed buses, ads on buses, accessibility, passenger conduct, shelters, over-crowding, commendations and complaints about Transit staff, questions and answers from and by riders, PSAs and other admin. posts, ATU content, new buses.

b. Anonymous posts:

- i. A member asked why somebody made an anonymous post, and another member replied with an explanation on anonymous posts should be allowed as they can be used to protect the identities of people who want to ask questions about a specific route without forcing them to reveal their real life identities
  - c. Late buses:
    - i. A member mentioned that there were a lot of posts about late buses lately, and proposed to lengthen the amount of time routes are scheduled to take to reduce the amount of late buses
    - ii. Another member noted that the stops are temporarily back on Campus Drive as opposed to College Drive/Bottomley Avenue, which means that the Transit app is not as reliable as it normally is, especially as this is where route numbering changes, and is seeing some consistency
    - iii. A member said that the number of buses in service is not sufficient for the amount of traffic they have, which leads to late buses as buses get more and more crowded
    - iv. Another member points out that these problems are caused by the city's aging transit fleet that is outpaced by the city's growth, and there will not be a fast solution to late buses, even as new buses are slowly being introduced
- 10. City of Saskatoon meetings
  - a. September 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting
    - i. Discussion topics: Introductions, route network renewal, construction of BRT stops, contracts, costs
  - b. October 21<sup>st</sup> meeting
    - i. Agenda: Access Transit with new Access manager???
    - ii. Attendees: Peter, Curt, Odin, Lila, Jenn. Other regular attenders will be sent information.
- 11. SPCOT
  - a. Next meeting – Tuesday December 10<sup>th</sup> (around 2 or 4 pm in the afternoon)
    - i. SPCOT meetings have been suspended until after the election
- 12. City Council meetings
  - a. No transit-related business at the City Council meeting on September 25<sup>th</sup>
- 13. Keep Transit Moving Coalition (Robert, Lila):
  - a. September 24<sup>th</sup> meeting
  - b. Robert and Lila attended. More discussion of plans for a National Day/Week of Action in mid-October to promote more federal funding for transit operations. Lots of enthusiasm and good participation from across the country.
- 14. Saskatoon Poverty Reduction Project (SPRP) – (Lila)

- a. The Saskatoon Poverty Reduction Project is happy about the free child fares, but they are currently focused on housing and on homelessness, with the SPRP planning to do a homeless count on October 7th

15. Climate Hub (Curt)

- a. Climate Hub is writing letters to the editor and is asking for BRS' support
- b. A member asked if Climate Hub is going to ask different groups to sign a letter
  - i. Another member said that he will present the letter as is to various organizations aligned with Climate Hub and ask them if they support it or not: if they do, these organizations will be mentioned in the letters to back Climate Hub's actions
- c. A member asks how BRS is going to approve of the request
  - i. Another member noted that traditionally, BRS aimed to reach a consensus rather than holding a vote before taking a course of action, as they do not want to have a narrow vote
- d. James moves a motion for BRS to support Climate Hub's letters to the editor, seconded by Lila, carried.