

**Bus Riders of Saskatoon – Meeting Minutes**  
**May 11, 2025 – 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm - Zoom Video Conference**

Present: Nathan, Mackenzie, Peter, Lila, Jenn, James, Odin, Curt, Robert, Bhuvnesh

Facilitator: Curt      Recorder: Robert      Regrets: Bob

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 6, 2025 meeting. Accepted.

4. Date & time for next meeting Agreed - Sunday, June 8th, 2025 at 7:00 pm via Zoom.

5. Business Arising from the Minutes of the April 6th, 2025 meeting

5.1 Tabling opportunities – Jenn – Nothing to report

5.2 E-Mail to Mike Jordan. No response to date. Suggested that Robert send a reminder pending the next meeting with Transit.

5.3 Data on Transit: Who, where to and where from – Jenn, Mackenzie

- Mackenzie reported that the data set we are seeking doesn't seem to exist: Who actually is riding the bus? What is the bus being used for?
- Generally felt that this data isn't currently available.

5.4 Councillor Ride-Along – tabled to next meeting

5.5 Governance and Priorities Meeting – April 9<sup>th</sup> – Canadian Public Transit Fund Application: Decision to apply for funds now and look for matching funds later if required.

## 6. Correspondence

6.1 Ehab Diab – U. of S. Dept. of Geography and Planning

6.1.1 Invitation to participate in a funding proposal

- Jenn and Mackenzie offered to serve as point persons for this project – Robert will send their contact info to Prof. Diab.

6.1.2 USASK Mobility Survey – March 2025 – Robert will send this out to those present.

6.2 ATU re: Transit Cuts in North Battleford – Request via KTM to offer support to citizens in North Battleford who are protesting a 50%+ cut to the local transit budget. Rally planned in North Battleford on May 26<sup>th</sup>.

7 . Access Transit – Bob/Sydney – no report available

## 8. Facebook/Website

8.1 Issues since the last meeting – not compiled for this meeting.

8.2 Transit Annual Report – Suggest lifting graphics and short information pieces for posting? Mackenzie can assist with this!

## 9. City of Saskatoon Meetings

9.1 Meeting: Friday April 25<sup>th</sup> March 17<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 via Zoom (rescheduled from April 28<sup>th</sup> at Transit's request.

9.1.1 Attendees: James, Curt, Peter, Robert, Odin, Bob

9.1.2 Topics discussed included:

- Electric buses
- Engagement around network redesign
- Safety on buses
- Potential service enhancements
- Demographic data for Transit users
- News buses – interior design
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## 9.2 Next Meetings:

### 9.2.1 Monday May 12<sup>th</sup> at 1:30

9.2.1.1 Topics: Public engagement for network redesign / possible summer route/schedule changes

9.2.1.2 Attendees: Robert, Peter, Odin, Lila

### 9.2.2 Tuesday May 20<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 (tentative)

9.2.2.1 Topic: CUTRIC Report?

9.2.2.2 Attendees?

## 10. Standing Policy Committee on Transportation (SPCOT)

### 10.1. Tuesday May 6<sup>th</sup>

#### 10.1.1 Agenda Item 6.1.2 – Snow Clearing Review

10.1.1.1 Recommend to Council: After the Saskatoon Transit Bus Network Design is completed, the Administration undertake a comprehensive review of the Priority Street Network and Service Level for Snow and Ice Management for consideration in the 2028/2029 Multi-Year Business Plan and Budget.

#### 10.1.2 Agenda Item 6.2.1 – Zero Emission Buses and CUTRIC Report

10.1.2.1 Recommendation to Council is 1) to stop phased fleet conversion from diesel to ZEBs. 2) To ask Ottawa for exemption from ZEB conversion requirements. 3) To monitor the Zero Emission Bus (ZEB) landscape for technological advances and changes in the Saskatchewan power grid which may make the transition to ZEBs more cost effective and beneficial and explore opportunities where feasible to pilot zero emissions buses on a small scale; 4) CUTRIC implementation Plan be revisited and updated in five years to reflect any technological advancements in the ZEB landscape and changes in renewable energy sources powering the Saskatchewan electrical grid.

Action: Peter, Curt, Robert, Odin will work on a response for the next Council meeting.

### 10.1.3 Agenda Item 6.2.3 – College Drive BRT Concept Changes

10.1.3.1 Recommended changes include – 1) Dedicated transit-only lanes that operate with the flow of adjacent traffic rather than use of contraflow lanes (travel in the opposite direction of adjacent traffic). 2. Replacement of the overhead pedestrian crossing with an at-grade signalized crossing 3) Addition of two BRT stations.

### 10.1.4 Agenda Item 6.3.1 - BRT Project Update

10.1.4.1 Locations and details of the planned work in the 2025 construction season, including 44 Link station platforms, is included in Appendix 2. Construction of the Link stations will continue with 29 station platforms in 2026 and 14 station platforms in 2027. The above-ground components (shelter, lighting, information display boards, etc.) of the stations will be constructed starting in 2026 and continue until the spring of 2028.

10.1.4.2 Fixed route fleet renewal is also underway to support the Link operations. Ten buses were delivered in 2024, 20 buses are expected to arrive in late summer/early fall 2025 and 21 buses are currently in tender for anticipated delivery in late summer/early fall 2026. Funding is in place for additional buses to be tendered in early 2026 for anticipated delivery in late summer/early fall of 2027 prior to the planned launch for Link in 2028.

### 10.1.5 Agenda Item 6.3.3 – 2024 Transit Annual Report

- Ridership for 2024 was 13.1 million, a 7% increase over 2023, contributing to a fare revenue increase of nearly 14%
- There was a surplus of \$5 million for fixed-route transit in 2024, primarily driven by fare revenue, exceeding projections by \$2.5 million.
- In increase in denial rates from 7.7 per cent in 2023 to 9.9 per cent.

- Added five 40-foot and three 60-foot diesel buses, two 40-foot battery-electric buses and four paratransit buses for Access Transit to the fleet.
- Expanded fixed-route service to Brighton and Rosewood.
- Introduced OnDemand service in Aspen Ridge and continued OnDemand service in North Kensington.

## 11. City Council Meetings - April 23, 2025

### 11.1 Agenda Items

Question Period: “Councillor Timon indicated he has received concerns from residents and operators regarding safety on buses and asked if Administration could speak to the safety team that was put in place, how are they responding to these concerns, and what their mandate is. Schmidt provided a brief update on the Transit safety concerns and what the City is undertaking. More reporting is forthcoming.”

### 11.2 Next Council Meeting – May 21, 2025

## 12. Keep Transit Moving Coalition (Robert, Lila)

- Meeting: April 29, 2025
- Discussion of post-election actions – Suggestion to write to Liberal MPs to remind them of the commitments to fund the Canadian Public Transit Fund and the Rural Transit Fund.
- Agreed that Bus Riders will send a letter to the Prairie Liberal and NDP MPs when the information becomes available and include the Minister responsible.
- Next meeting – Tuesday May 27th

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

- Lila will bring forward the need to SPRP to be sure they are involved in the public engagement regarding the conventional network redesign.

#### 14. Climate Hub – Curt

- The group is frustrated by the apparent lack of support for sustainability measures by the current Council.

#### 15. Strong Towns – Mackenzie

- Working to promote the conversion of two blocks on Broadway for pedestrian only use during the Broadway closure.
- Another project is opposition to the proposed freeway bypass project.

#### 16. Ongoing Actions

##### 16.1 Meetings with Councillors

##### 16.1.2 Next Councillor – Request sent to Councillor Donauer

#### 17. Other Business

##### 17.1 Agenda Item 10.1.2 CUTRIC report – See Agenda Item 10.1.2

##### 17.2 KTM letters to MPs – see Agenda Item 12.

#### 18. 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.