

Bus Riders of Saskatoon
December 7, 2025 – 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm - Zoom Video Conference

Facilitator: Mackenzie Recorder: Robert Regrets:
Present: Mackenzie, Robert, Peter, Lila, Peter, Jim, Nathan

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. Add 8.3 - AI posts on the page.

3. Review of minutes of November 2, 2025 meeting. Approved.

4. Date & time for next meeting Set for Sunday January 4th, 2026 at 7:00.

5. Business Arising from the Minutes of the November 2, 2025 meeting

5.1 Councillor Ride-Along – Discussion – Agreed to challenge Councillors to ride the bus at least once in a two week period and then post a photo of them when on or boarding the bus. Perhaps bring up at the March meeting and plan for April.

5.2 Cutric Webinar Questions – Answers are now up on their website at:
<https://cutric-crituc.org/saskatoon-transit-full-fleet-zero-emission-bus-implementation-plan/#faq>

6. Correspondence

6.1 Interview requests from CTV, Global, CBC and CKOM. Robert was interviewed by all of them. Discussion of how to draw our members' attention to this coverage and various options using Facebook directing our members to news links on our website. Robert and Peter will work on this.

6.2 Mike Moellenbeck – Transit Director – Alert to availability online of the Fare Review Report for the Budget Meeting

6.3 Edmonton Transit Riders – Robert to have a Zoom call with a contact from ETR next week. ETR is interested in our experiences with BRT. It was noted that the concept for Saskatoon was initiated by the City Planning Department and not Saskatoon Transit.

6.4 Strong Towns – Nomination for worst intersection in Saskatoon. Suggestions were: 1) Idylwyld and 22nd Street (esp. pedestrians but all traffic), 2) 3rd Avenue and 23rd – for bus riders – slow light when people are in a hurry to get across 3rd Avenue to catch their bus 3) College Drive and Campus Drive – across from the Hotel– difficult for buses moving from Campus Drive onto College – lots of vehicle traffic on College. 4) Miller Avenue and 42nd Street - cars and buses – a frightening experience and difficult for pedestrians to cross 42nd Street to and from the bus stop on the south side of 42nd St 5) Acadia Drive and 8th Street for pedestrians 6) 19th Street and 1st – missing sidewalk on the east side of the street leading to 20th Street

7 . Access Transit – Bob/Sydney – no report

- A member commented that some transit users are choosing to take Access as they don't feel safe on the bus. Robert noted that this point was raised in his presentation to City Council.

8. Facebook/Website

8.1 Website Content

- It was noted that there is not much recent content other than the minutes.
- We could use someone just to do 'news' content – we will test this out (see 6.1)

8.2 Facebook Page – Issues since November 1st

- Posts – 36 – down from 61 in October
- Continued growth in membership due to press coverage and 'spectacular reach' of a few posts – now 2825 members

- Greatest 'reach' – Photo of new shelter 16.6K, BRS budget summary 11.3K, photo of poorly parked bus 7.7K, Winter riding tips 5.2K.
- Topics were: Information on other transit systems (8), Complaints about drivers (4), Admin Posts (4), Safety concerns (3), Riders sharing information (3), Event promotion 2) Bus upkeep (2), Questions from Riders (2), Concerns about stop spacing (1), Lack of space for riders with disabilities (1), Fare evasion (1), Anti-Social behaviour (1), App issues (1). Noticeable drop in complaints about detours and lost & found posts.

8.3 AI Posts: These seemed to be FB generated posts which have mined the site for provocative and divisive comments. Admin's believe we have managed to this function off.

9. Meetings with Saskatoon Transit's Customer Support & Engagement Manager

9.1 Meeting: November 17, 2025, 2025

- Topics discussed included:
 - The new ticketing system
 - The remainder of the meeting focussed on all aspects of bus maintenance.
- Minutes will be posted once approved.

9.2 Next Meeting:

9.2.1 Tuesday December 9 at 4:00 pm

9.2.1.1 Topics: Upcoming enhancements to the electronic ticketing, recent fare box issues, policy regarding kneeling buses in cold weather, next steps in fare review, fare evasion, etc.

9.2.1.2 Attendees: Peter, Mackenzie, Odin, Robert,

10. City Council Meetings

10.1. November 25 - 28, 2025 – City Budget Meeting

10.1.1 On behalf of BRS, Robert presented to Council on three topics:

- Results of the Fare Review
- Proposed Service Cuts
- Options for Enhanced Security on Transit

11. Standing Policy Committee on Transportation

11.1 Meeting: Tuesday November 4th

11.1.1 Agenda item 6.1.1 Indigenous Led Peacekeepers

- Recommendation is for a pilot program with four staff in two teams that would operate in one BID – this proposal was referred to Council Budget Meeting for consideration.

11.2.3 Agenda item 6.2.3 Options for Enhanced Security and Further Enforcement on Saskatoon Transit

- Robert presented to the Committee on behalf of BRS
 - Message to Council was that measures need to be taken to address anti-social behaviour on the buses and a public perception that our transit system isn't safe
- Committee received the report and recommended to Council that a specialized Transit Safety unit be established within the Saskatoon Police Department.

11.2.4 Agenda item 6.2.4 Free Child Fare Update

- Committee received the report with little comment. No changes are anticipated.

11.2 Meeting – Tuesday December 2nd

11.3.1 Agenda item 6.3.1 College Drive Link Corridor

- This item dealt with 1) the potential of Adaptive Signal Control Technology (ASCT) on College Drive
 - Further reporting requested regarding potential implementation and costs
- and 2) an analysis of left turn capacity along College before and after Link implementation.

- Generally all traffic categories are expected to have equal or better left turn experiences with the changes.
- Administration noted that at peak traffic hours a car would take an additional 3 minutes to drive from Preston to Clarence along College.
- BRS discussed the reports brought to this meeting and concerns were expressed that push back from the public could endanger the implementation of dedicated bus lanes on College.

12. Keep Transit Moving Coalition (Robert, Lila)

12.1 Meeting – November 25 – Cancelled by the chair.

- Next meeting TBA

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

- year end update meeting - catch up with colleagues & celebrate the changing seasons and holidays with Feel free to invite colleagues – December 11th 1:30 – 3:30.
- Robert and Lila plan to attend.

14. Climate Hub – Curt – no report

15. Strong Towns – Mackenzie -see Agenda item 6.4

16. Ongoing Actions

16.1 Meetings with Councillors:

- Meeting with Councillor Kelleher held on November 20th – variety of transit issues were discussed.
- Next Councillor Meeting: Agreed to approach Councillor Davies.

17. Other Business

17.1 Fare Review – agreed to discuss this further at the January 4th meeting.

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.