

Bus Riders of Saskatoon
February 1, 2026 – 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm - Zoom Video Conference
Meeting Minutes

Facilitator: Curt Recorder: Robert Regrets: None
Present: Robert, Odin, Peter, Lila, James, Mackenzie, Curt

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. Addition: 6.3 Barrier Free Saskatchewan

3. Review of minutes of January 4, 2026 meeting. Minutes accepted as circulated.

4. Date & time for next meeting: Sunday, March 1st at 7:00 pm.

5. Business Arising from the Minutes of the January 4, 2026 meeting

5.1 Councillor Ride-Along – tabled until March meeting.

5.2 Cutric Webinar Questions – Thoughts? No one had any further observations to share.

5.3 Links to BRS media coverage to go on Web page – Update.

- Mackenzie has overcome some technical issues and now has access.
 - Discussion of page could be organized
 - Delegated Mackenzie to do as he sees fit
 - Key is to allow us to direct our FB members to our website in order to be able to access links to our media coverage.

5.4 Documentary – Robert was interviewed for a student assignment on safety on Saskatoon Transit.

6. Correspondence

6.1 CTV: Outreach to Robert from CTV resulted in the following news coverage.

<https://vancouverisland.ctvnews.ca/saskatoon/article/saskatoon-bus-riders-still-face-accessibility-issues-despite-warm-weather/>

6.2 Ehab Diab, U. of S. Department of Geography and Planning – January 26, 2026 to Lila & Mackenzie

- Lila and Mackenzie will participate in planning for a study to be conducted this summer on transit rider anxiety (if grant money is received). BRS will be listed as a partner on the grant application.

6.3 Barrier Free Saskatchewan

- BRS is invited to attend a meeting to discuss accessibility with members of this disability advocacy group.
- Meeting via Zoom on March 2 beginning at 6:00 pm.
- Robert will attend and others can decide on their attendance at our meeting on March 1st.

7 . Access Transit – Bob/Sydney – no report

8. Facebook/Website

8.1 Website Content

8.1.1 Communications to Council – agreed that future presentations will be posted on the website.

8.2 Facebook Page – Issues since December 30th

- Posts – 52 – down from 54 in December
- Continued growth in membership from 2939 to 3171
- Greatest ‘reach’ – Needle at Downtown Terminal – 130.2K, Snow clearing – 19K, 17.6K, 12.9K
- Topics were: Snow clearing (10), Other systems (6), Information for other riders (6), Questions from Riders (4),), Complaints about drivers (4), Service complaints (4), Commendations for drivers, (3) Safety (2), Complaints about other riders (1).

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

9.1 Meeting: January 13, 2026.

- Topics discussed included:
 - Future meetings with Chief Public Policy and Government Relations Officer, Special Projects Manager and the new Access Transit Manager.
 - Fare Review engagement process
 - Snow clearing
 - Bus orders
- Minutes will be posted once approved by Transit.

9.2 Next Meeting:

9.2.1 Tuesday February 10th at 4:00 pm

9.2.1.1 Topics: January schedule changes, discussion of potential meetings with new Access Manager, Chief Public Relations and Public Policy Manager, and Special Projects Manager, Snow clearing issues.

9.2.1.2 Attendees: Odin, Curt, Peter, Robert, Mackenzie, James

10. City Council Meetings

10.1. Wednesday January 28th

10.2.1 Agenda Item 14.1 Winter Road Maintenance Contract Performance.

- Robert spoke to Council about including sidewalks and bus stops in this initiative (<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/saskatoon/saskatoon-snow-ice-clearing-city-hall-seniors-quality-monitoring-9.7065441>)
- Discussion of snow clearing practice by the City – policies appear to be unclear.
- Peter and Robert hope to join a Walking Saskatoon meeting with Roadways to discuss whose responsibility it is do what

10.2 Next Council Meeting Wednesday February 25th

11. Standing Policy Committee on Transportation

11.1 Meeting: Tuesday January 13

11.1.1 Agenda Item 2: Appointment of Chair and Vice-Chair

- Dubois and Ford re-appointed

11.1.2 Agenda Item 11.2 Investigation of Service Disruptions in Saskatoon Transit – Recommendation Status Update

- Final response to Auditor's Report which closes the file
- BRS submitted a letter to draw attention of Councillors to continuing deficiencies in transit service.

11.1.3 Agenda Item 12.1: Sherry Tarasoff: Electric Trolley Buses

- Interesting response from Administration in response to question from Councillor Pearce (11 minute video clip): <https://pub-saskatoon.escribemeetings.com/Meeting.aspx?Id=f169cc73-de1b-4658-99ec-550fae9aac21&Agenda=Merged&lang=English&Item=26&Tab=attachments>

11.2 Next Meeting: Tuesday February 3rd at 2:00 pm

11.2.1 Agenda Item: 6.2.2 Connecting Miller Avenue to Marquis Drive

- This initiative once funded would construct walkways on each side of Miller – this would help pedestrian access to bus stops for routes 14 and 25.
- BRS is to send a letter to SPCOT in support of this initiative. Robert will do this.

12. Keep Transit Moving Coalition (Robert, Lila)

12.1 Meeting – Tuesday January 27, 2026

- Robert attended
- Speaker from CUTA on changes to Federal Government transit funding
 - Canadian Public Transit Fund – discontinued

- New Building Communities Strong Fund which will include transit projects
- Appears to be a cut from \$30B to \$25B over 10 years; and is more targeted to large urban systems,
- CUTA submission seeks to maintain full funding, have a defined transit ‘carve out’ with clear annual amounts, retain access by small and medium systems, maintain some propulsion choice so fleet renewal funding would not be limited to BEVs.

12.2 Next meeting Tuesday, February 24th at 3:00 pm.

- Any BRS Steering Committee member can attend.

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

- SPRP is focussing on Universal Basic Income

14. Climate Hub – Curt

- CH has had their annual planning meeting to determine priorities and actions for the next year.
- Discussion of the relative roles of the Saskatchewan Environmental Society and Climate Hub.

15. Strong Towns - Mackenzie

- Worst intersection competition – still narrowing the finalists
- A large employer in Saskatoon has decided to pay 100% of the costs for their workers to participate in the Eco-Pass program
 - Suggested we should learn more about the EcoPass and work to promote it
- Next meeting at “Ideas” on Wednesday, February 18th at 7:00 pm – speaker on homelessness

16. Ongoing Actions

16.1 Meetings with Councillors:

- Request sent to meet with Councillor Davies but neither of the dates provided were workable
- New request for dates sent in but no response yet
- Next Councillor – We will try to arrange a meeting with Councillor Timon

17. Other Business

17.1 Fare Review – Further Actions

- Discussion of the need to engage with Mike Jordan on a variety of issues: Including fare evasion & differential fares

17.2 Meeting with ATU. Robert will set this up.

17.3 Expansion of Steering Committee?

- Some discussion of the pros and cons of this.
- Table this until the March meeting.

18. Adjournment