

## Bus Rapid Transit – Downtown Configuration

Bus Riders of Saskatoon believes that BRT should be routed down 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue.

Construction of BRT along 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue violates the principle of taking people from where they are to where they want to go. The Summary Report admits that it would limit coverage of east and southeast Downtown, which has a fairly dense residential population. Many of these residents are part of that captive group of transit users who don't own cars or who have mobility issues. Proponents point out that Midtown Plaza is a major destination point. This is true, but looking at the system as a whole, you will see that if you are coming from the west side, or the northeast neighbourhoods adjacent to Attridge Drive on the Green Line, or on the Red Line from the eastside neighbourhoods along 8<sup>th</sup> Street or the University, you already have a direct BRT line to Midtown Plaza. Only those on the Blue line serving Wards 6 and 7 would require a transfer from one BRT line to the next if BRT is routed down 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue.

Proponents of the First Avenue route have cited future development on Idylwyld Drive and on 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue and the possibility of a downtown arena as factors favouring the 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue option. What we need to do is to build what best serves transit users in the City now and in the nearer future. If in 20 or 30 or 40 years we see high density housing and new destination points grow in areas not already served by lines in the existing network, then there would be a good reason to put a new BRT line along Idylwyld for the people who will live or want to go there. We can't afford to build surplus lines now where people don't need them in the hope that our grandchildren's children will use them.

It is important that Saskatoon gets this right. If BRT is to be a success it needs to go where it makes most sense from a transit point of view. It needs to take people from where they are to where they want to go. This is too big of an investment to put services where people don't need them.

Robert Clipperton, Steering Committee

Bus Riders of Saskatoon

