



To: City Council on April 29, 2019

Thank you for the opportunity to submit a statement about the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Plans. My name is Greg Fowler, I am the Vice-President Finance and Resources, of the University of Saskatchewan.

On behalf of the University of Saskatchewan, I am writing in support of the city's plans for a Bus Rapid Transit system. We support the city's plans for three major reasons: **People, Land and Sustainability.**

Number One is People: The City's growth plan aligns with the University of Saskatchewan's plans to grow its teaching and research mandates. The total U of S population on a daily basis exceeds 30,000 including students, faculty and staff. Frequent, direct and fast public transportation is essential, in particular for students, and to meet our plans for future growth. The development of BRT stations along College and Preston will significantly improve access to the university and its research facilities, Royal University Hospital, Innovation Place and College Quarter including nine residence buildings, and Merlis Belsher Place.

Second is Land: Our urban lands are strategic teaching and research assets, but also represent an important source of future revenue. Our Vision 2057 land plan identifies approximately 1,000 acres of university land for future development that could accommodate as many as 40,000 people. BRT improves access to all of our development lands and provides transportation options to future residents, workers and commercial customers. BRT provides critical infrastructure that will allow strategic infill development to take place on university land. The university is prepared to meet the challenges of realigning campus connections to new BRT stations on College and Preston.

And third is Sustainability: The university inventory of parking spaces on campus is presently just under 7,200 spaces of all types. The university, its students, faculty and staff have shown a commitment to transit with the student UPASS holders as the largest group of transit users. The university also has the largest Eco Pass program for its employees. The university has no mandate to increase vehicle parking on campus and is targeting reductions in its greenhouse gas emissions. It sees BRT as an important transportation alternative as its population grows over time. Improved public transit frequency, speed and convenience will encourage people to leave their vehicles at home.

The University of Saskatchewan is in support of the City of Saskatoon's planned BRT system as it complements other modes of transportation and is essential to a modern university in a modern urban setting. This plan benefits people, supports the university's plans for use of its lands, and reduces harmful impact on the environment. It complements other modes of transportation, which is essential to a growing, modern university in a contemporary urban setting.

