

Transit Advisory Committee

City of Saskatoon - History

In 1968, Saskatoon City Council adopted Terms of Reference for a Transit Advisory Committee. The Committee was advisory to the Saskatoon Transit Board, who was advisory to Council (pursuant to Bylaw No. 4992, *A bylaw of the City of Saskatoon to appoint a Board to assist in the management of its Transit System and to define the powers of said Board*). As part of its mandate, the Transit Advisory Committee was responsible to:

- (a) Assist the Transit Board in providing a high and improving standard of public transportation to all citizens of Saskatoon;
- (b) Act as a spokesperson for the citizens in all matters relating to maintenance and improvement of service; and
- (c) Act as a liaison between the Transit system and the citizens in the interest of enhancing the efficiency and improving utilization of the Transit system.

Six members were appointed by the Transit Board for either a one or two year term. The Superintendent of the Saskatoon Transit system, the Manager of Utilities and any member of the Transit Board were entitled to attend meetings of the Committee.

At the direction of City Council in January of 1980, the Transit Board considered the viability of the Transit Advisory Committee and reviewed its Terms of Reference. The Transit Advisory Committee continued, with added procedural requirements:

- (a) At least two times per year the Transit Board and Transit Advisory Committee were required to participate in a joint meeting;
- (b) The meeting agenda consisted of two parts: (i) items brought forward by the Transit Advisory Committee; and (ii) items brought forward by the Transit Board; and
- (c) Transit Board information, including monthly meeting minutes and month statements of Transit operations were shared with the Transit Advisory Committee.

In 1982, Committee membership increased to 10, after efforts to engage the University of Saskatchewan Students' Union, the Kelsey Students' Union and the School Boards. The Amalgamated Transit Union was also asked to nominate a representative.

In 1989, the Transit Board was eliminated and the functions assumed by the Works and Utilities Committee. The Transit Advisory Committee became the Citizens' Advisory Committee on Transit Operations, reporting to the Works and Utilities Committee. However, over time, the Transit Operations Committee was underutilized. Instead, public input on such things as route and service level changes was achieved through the activities of the Transportation Coordinator and the Marketing and Planning

Manager of Transit Services. This eventually led to disbanding of the Committee in September of 1995.

Other Jurisdictions

Of the jurisdictions surveyed, only the City of Edmonton has a Transit System Advisory Board whose mandate deals with public transit issues, such as ridership, servicing, repair and maintenance issues, accessibility issues and public transit policies. The Advisory Committees in other jurisdictions do contemplate aspects of public transportation, largely on the issue of accessibility under the mandates of their respective Accessibility Advisory Committees. However, the other jurisdictions do not appear to have within the mandates of any other Advisory Committees, consideration of operational type issues such as routing, service levels and ridership.