

I'm Terri Sleeva, chair of the Regina Citizens Public Transit Coalition (RCPTC) and I'm here to address the Transit Master Plan. In general, I agree with the goals being presented.

In fact, this was said in 2013 "The city would like to push for an electrified fleet for the near future and added a great point of saying "We can't talk seriously about a renewable Regina without transit..."

Now with the TMP we see that this is being brought forth as not just a possibility, but an inevitability.

Though this is a step in the right direction, there is still much to be done to meet our long standing goals.

It is worth noting this comment in the Official Community Plan (OCP) from December 16, 2013:

"Create Better, More Active Ways of Getting Around

Mobility – The city is increasingly transitioning from car-oriented to people-oriented design and development by offering residents a greater range of mobility choices. At the same time, the city faces increased demands for more and better transportation connections to the region.

Make it easier for people of all abilities to travel through the city by investing in public transit in appropriate locations and planning for all active forms of transportation. This includes providing access routes so all people can more easily travel from home to work and to other destinations."

We are getting closer to meeting all the previously noted targets, however we need to remain focused and unified on these matters that will result in a better environment, and a more livable city for all people.

In regards to the 11th Avenue bus hub:

The central downtown bus line is crucial to the already established area and should remain as such going further. Many people commuting to the Cornwall Center or Scarth Street rely on those buses year round, and given our especially cold and long winters, they don't need to be venturing even further just to get meaningful transport. Especially when a large portion of the current transit users are retirees like me.

In addition, the downtown area is one of our restaurant/bar areas of the city. Removal or redirection of the 11th Avenue line would be another hurdle for people to find safe rides home. Saskatchewan is already the worst drinking and driving statistic in Canada for years running. This doesn't need to be exacerbated by an increase in difficulty for using safe, affordable transit home.

Thank you for addressing the key points some of which are free transit for youth, bus frequency, Sunday and holiday service, increased service hours and route expansion for the citizens of Regina. I pray that we will have speedy implementation improvements to public transit in Regina.