

Transit Speech to City Hall for July 29th

Hello and thank you Mayor and City Councillors,

My name is MacKenzie Kotylak, and I would like to speak with you today about our City's transit solutions for the future.

Your hearts are in the right place with wanting to design a better transportation master plan and wanting to get as much of the right information for that going forward, as well in wanting to hire a private consultant to create this new plan; but I urge you that we must listen to the Citizens of Regina and hear what they have to say first. The changes that need to happen to better the transit system are well known by the people it affects most, our transit users. As well as the Regina citizens who do not currently use the transit system because of its lack of accessibility.

There is an extensive list of barriers that affect transit riders today and many solutions for a better and greener future. Changes can be made sooner rather than later.

Why try to recreate the wheel when we can simply just connect the spokes.

A quick view of some of these solutions are;

- Moving all private vehicle parking off of 11th Ave,
- Increasing transit services by one hour in the mornings and the evenings,
- Creating closer intervals at bus stops for residents being able to access the transit more often,
- Creating an express route that runs down Broad Street (North to South) and one that runs down Victoria Ave. (East to West).
- Providing more marketing towards transit use and how-to transit programs.
- And that's just to name a few.

And for those who think that transit isn't being used enough, I would like to state that transit ridership in our city rose by 3.9% in 2018, and 7.1% in 2019. And right now the Federal Government is offering millions of dollars for cities to run and improve their transit systems. The city council needs to go get this money from our federal and provincial government.

Moving forward we, the Regina Citizens Public Transit Coalition would like to work together with council for our city's transit plan and its greener future goals.

Right now we are the same distance away from the year 2050 as we are from the year 1990. I know what you're thinking, I was also shocked by this realization. But it is just more motivation for us to act now! There isn't a lot of time to sit on decisions or ideas and we must act sooner than later.

We need to have a safe and accessible transit system now if we are going to have a sustainable city to live in by 2050.

I ask you again, will you meet with our group, Regina Citizens Public Transit Coalition and hear some of the struggles transit users have and to discuss solutions?

Thank you for listening and I can try to answer any questions you may have.

MacKenzie Kotylak