Minute No. 523
Minutes – Council – September 25, 2025

Standing Policy Committee on Public Works – Motions

Item No. 1 Primary Transit Network – Service and Costs

Moved by Councillor Rollins,
Seconded by Councillor Wyatt,

WHEREAS Winnipeg residents have expressed deep concern regarding the recent Winnipeg Transit service changes, which include significant reductions to evening and night service in the very neighbourhoods most reliant on public transit;

AND WHEREAS these reductions disproportionately impact equity-deserving communities, including low-income residents, women, Indigenous peoples, newcomers, persons with disabilities, and shift workers whose safety, livelihoods, and access to essential services are now at greater risk;

AND WHEREAS this sequence of dates means residents cannot be reasonably assured that their urgent concerns regarding transit equity, safety, and access will be addressed in a timely manner before budget 2026, or the onset of winter, when reliable evening and night transit service becomes even more critical for public safety and mobility;

AND WHEREAS the lack of transparent, publicly available data in advance of the budget undermines public confidence in the City's decision-making, particularly when Council has repeatedly emphasized commitments to equity, climate action, and public safety;

AND WHEREAS public transit is a critical service, connecting residents to employment, education, healthcare, and community life, and is essential for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and advancing Winnipeg's climate goals;

AND WHEREAS the City of Winnipeg, under its Charter obligations, is mandated "to promote and maintain the health, safety, and welfare of its inhabitants," and the 2025/26 Accessibility Plan commits the City to ensuring that services reflect the diversity of its population—including accessibility, race, gender, age, ability, language, immigration status, and socio-economic status—while prioritizing increased access to transit and public spaces for persons with disabilities through resident surveys, lived experience narratives, community consultations, and employee outreach; and communications and engagement commitments for reduced confusion, complaints or repeated inquiries

AND WHEREAS the City's approach to recent transit service changes has eroded trust with key post-secondary partners, with the University of Manitoba Students' Union publicly questioning ongoing support for the U-Pass program, as students have been left stranded without service in the North End, West End, and Downtown;

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AND WHEREAS urgent action by Council is required to protect residents' safety, ensure equitable access to transit, and restore public trust in the City's processes;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Public Service be directed to:

1. Report back to Council on the following:

    A. A breakdown of the budget proposals, costs, and internal briefings prepared for the upcoming budget tabling at the Executive Policy Committee.

    B. Details of the Transit Department's previous budget submissions related to the Primary Transit Network, including any risks identified to the Budget Working Group or Committees of Council;

    C. Data on ridership numbers, equity impacts, and financial considerations that informed the proposed Primary Transit Network service changes;

    D. To restore:

        i. the original transit service (that disproportionately impact equity-seeking communities until a full equity and safety impact assessment has been completed);

        ii. stops serving seniors' residences, hospitals, clinics, and secondary schools

    E. Restore evening and night service to communities most affected;

2. That the Proper Officers of the City be authorized to do all things necessary to implement the intent of the foregoing.

Required to Stand as Notice of Motion in accordance with Rule 17(1) of the Procedure By-law No. 50/2007.

Moved by Councillor Rollins,
That Rule 17(1) of the Procedure By-law No. 50/2007 be suspended to consider the motion at this time.

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