

FOR DECEMBER 18, 2025, COUNCIL MEETING

To: Councillors Lukes, Chambers, Sharma, and Eadie (Standing Committee on Public Works)

CC: Mayor Gillingham

CC: All other Councillors

Re: House shaking and noise from bus corridor on Arlington South

Date: December 17, 2025

In attempting to address the negative impacts of the new bus system, I recognize that you have prioritized the many challenges that people experienced getting around our fair city. Hopefully the December schedule changes and eventual GPS fixes will reduce some of that particular chaos.

Now Transit and the City need to address **the infrastructure damage, house-shaking, and corollary loss of sleep and quality of life from the misguided decision to put too-heavy and too-frequent bus lines through narrow streets in residential neighbourhoods** (Wolseley, Transcona, Scotia Heights, and South Vital to name four). I was pleased to see that the item is under discussion at Council on December 16, although we have already had to wait for many months and are clearly expected to wait several more.

Your plan to exacerbate the problems by extending service to 2 a.m. in April 2026 increases the absolute urgency of the situation. The upcoming schedule change will leave us with three-and-a-half hours of quiet a night. **Only three-and-a-half hours without ongoing rumbling and shaking. Only three-and-a-half hours to open windows in the summer.** In what universe is that a suitable response to the problems that tax-paying homeowners on these routes have been identifying to you since July?! You are making matters worse.

This letter is specifically about Arlington South. As you know from various reports by citizens and City staff, the buses on Arlington South have already caused noticeable (documented) damage to the streets in just the first few months of implementation and will inevitably cause damage to our foundations. Ceiling cracks are starting to appear in more of our homes, more so than even two months ago when we first notified you of this issue. Despite pathetic little asphalt patches for 15 homes along Arlington South – which we had to fight ridiculously hard for – and a theoretical but entirely ineffectual speed reduction order by Transit, our homes are STILL invaded by shaking from 5:24 in the morning until 11:08 at night. The buses hiss and accelerate 30 feet from our bedroom windows every eight minutes on weekdays (every four minutes in Transcona). Once the extended hours are implemented, we will no longer be able to open our windows overnight because of the noise, despite the fact that some of us do not have air conditioning and rely on open windows to cool our homes in the warmer months.

Our homes are no longer places of refuge or even good investments. Rest assured that every time my house shakes, I am reminded of the inadequate planning and preparation by the City and Winnipeg Transit and its consequences on my life. I can remind you that your consultation

process only included 1.2% of Winnipeg's population, according to your own statistics. To say that this is insufficient research for a change of this magnitude is stating the obvious.

How quickly will the Public Works Committee (in conjunction with Transit and any other necessary bodies) STOP our homes from shaking, return traffic flow and speeds to residential neighbourhood levels, and decrease the noise on our narrow residential streets so that we can open our windows again?

I'm not asking what you will do to "investigate" or "discuss" or "review" the situation but what you will do to STOP the nightmare. What steps will be taken, by whom, and how soon?

Slowing the buses has not worked to date. Transit said it would implement a speed reduction order but despite Transit saying that they have "protocols" in place to deal with speeding bus drivers, the drivers often go well above the stipulated 30 km/hr, especially early in the morning and late at night when the streets are emptier. In a farcical step that asks us homeowners to help Transit monitor its own staff, we are still being asked by 311 to provide bus numbers of speeding buses despite it being winter now. It will come as no surprise that I'm not sitting outside at 5:30 in the morning to catch a bus number to help Transit do its job as it continues to harm my home.

The discussion about residential speed restrictions is taking too long and a by-law change may not even pass. On October 8 of this year, we were told - after our presentation to the Public Works Committee - that you would be reviewing the residential speed report in December or January. However, the disposition after the meeting said you needed 120 days to review the matter, which conveniently delays action until at least February. Now I see that you need 90 days from the December 18 meeting, which takes us to March. Residential streets with damaging bus corridors should have been addressed before implementation or, at the very least, *immediately* after implementation through another means to protect the homes and show a modicum of respect to the homeowners raising these issues.

Proper street repairs along bus corridors are not being prioritized. When the Manager of Street Maintenance did a site visit to see our homes in October, he confirmed that Arlington needs a full reconstruction because of all the breaks in the concrete. We all know the roads get worse in the spring. Instead of getting an assurance that a proper fix is coming, we got a verbal message about the possibility of an asphalt overlay sometime - maybe - in the summer, when everyone already knows that will only last a year or two. Words. In the meantime, our homes shake many times a day.

Your delays, your inaction, your silence, and your disrespectful, condescending messaging add insult to injury. Citizens' complaints are not "noise". No one should have to "get used to" their home and liveability being harmed by elected officials. The civic election, frankly, cannot come soon enough. I, for one, will not be fooled into trusting you again. And we will continue to speak up directly and publicly until you fix this, because our sleep and homes depend on it.

I repeat my request for information:

How quickly will the Public Works Committee (in conjunction with Transit and any other necessary bodies) STOP our homes from shaking, return traffic flow and speeds to residential neighbourhood levels, and decrease the noise on our narrow residential streets so that we can open our windows again?

Not one of you would find this acceptable if these were *your* homes.

Margerit Roger, M.Ed.