

## QUESTIONNAIRE RESPONSE Mayoral Candidate

### Brian Bowman

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1. Public transit was identified as the most important issue facing Winnipeggers in the 2019 budget consult, followed by active transportation and roadway construction and maintenance. In your opinion, why is public transit deemed the number one priority?

I think Winnipeggers know we can do better with respect to Transit and they have told us that this is a priority as more residents choose alternative forms of transportation when commuting. Should I be fortunate to serve another term as Mayor, I will continue to work with the new Council to make Transit more modern, efficient, responsive, and accessible.

2. If you could give Winnipeg's transit system an overall letter grade, what would it be? What do you feel is holding the current transit system back from getting a better grade? If you could sum up your vision for the future of Winnipeg's transit system what would it be?

For many years, City Hall allowed infrastructure and City-owned assets, including Transit, to languish and deteriorate. Over the last four years, we have been playing catch-up to compensate for those lost years. I concur with the City's first ever State of the Infrastructure report that graded Transit at a C+. However, I believe we've moved to a B given that we've continued to make investments to modernize and improve the system. I want a Transit system that is more modern, efficient, responsive, and accessible.

3. Safety is an increasing concern for transit riders and drivers, alike. What do you feel contributes to the lack of safety in the current system? How would you improve safety?

I will continue to prioritize transit safety should I be Mayor for another four years. Transit safety is very important to me and that is why we struck the Transit Advisory Committee (TAC) to recommend strategies to improve safety on the Transit system. I continue to support TAC and I value the advice it provides. Council set aside \$590,000 for transit security this year and TAC recommended adding five new Transit inspectors on-street and on buses thanks to those funds. Maintaining a presence on buses is important to avoid conflict and it improves the overall transit experience. I support TAC's recommendation to continue partnering with Main Street Project who trains new bus drivers on ways to reduce the potential for conflict and improve safety on the transit system by increasing mental health and addictions awareness. I also support TAC's recommendation to engage with Bear Clan on the potential of contributing to Transit safety. I will continue to listen to advice provided by TAC going forward.

4. If you could sum up Winnipeg's current transit system in 3 words, what would it be?

"Forward not backward"

5. Cities like Ottawa and Edmonton contribute over \$220 million to their transit networks, while the City of Winnipeg contributes just \$65 million. To match these other cities in per capita terms, Winnipeg should be contributing \$170 million. How will you fight for more funding towards transit?

We have consistently supported annual increases in the tax-supported subsidy to Transit (\$66.4 million in 2018 compared to \$55.1 million in 2017) despite provincial operating funding being frozen (\$42 million in 2018) and despite the Province unilaterally pulling out of the 50/50 funding agreement, the latter move representing a shortfall of \$10 million. In 2018, the combined budgeted subsidy for Transit is \$108.4 million, which represents roughly 10% of the City of Winnipeg's operating revenue. And despite operating costs increasing year over year,

we have continued to keep transit fares amongst the lowest compared to other major cities. I recently supported a motion at Executive Policy Committee directing the Public Service to present options and recommendations on a new low income bus pass program for consideration in the 2019 Budget. Moreover, I will be committing to exploring more initiatives that improve the Transit experience, and I will be working with the Public Service with respect to a larger scale deployment of electric buses and to expanding BRT. Under my tenure, we have launched a system-wide operational review that will assess where transit service is at currently and how it may evolve to improve overall service and respond to need. I will continue to support Transit services and work to modernize the system, and I will continue to call on the Province to collaborate with the City of Winnipeg to bring Transit to the next level.

Bonus question: What is your favourite Transit App and why?

I am first of all encouraged by the ever-increasing value of the City's open data portal and application programming interface that feed all the third-party applications: <http://api.winnipegtransit.com/home/api/v3> . That said, I do like the GoManitoba App because it provides Winnipeggers an array of commuting options, including Transit, and it is a great way for residents to connect with like-minded people on their commute.