

QUESTIONNAIRE RESPONSE

St. Vital Ward

Brian Mayes

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?

“Most important issue”. To be fair other surveys have not cited transit as the most important issue. However, it is certainly an increasingly important issue. People I think would like to have a viable option to take Transit. This reflects an increasing appreciation of the environment. I hope we can build on this by continuing to expand service options. This includes service to the suburbs. If we give to anti-suburban rhetoric at City Hall we will certainly dissuade a generation of potential users from taking transit.

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?

Letter Grade B. Future I think is bright, especially if other levels of government cooperate. One specific issue: I have championed expanding Handi Transit to all geographic parts of the City and will continue to do so.

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?

Safety. I am proud that I pushed for 6 new transit security staff in 2014 budget. We have added 5 more since then. We need to create a better security presence on transit and we need to get all three unions involved (police, ATU and WAPSO) to buy into a plan.

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

3 words. Steady improvement possible.

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?

I do not know the level of provincial support in other provinces. We certainly need support from other levels if we are to make major capital investments. In my view the province should restore the 50/50 funding arrangement so that we can look at expanding service instead of fighting just to maintain current levels.

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

I do not have a Transit app, though I try to ride transit to council once a week. You might think about how that question excludes many people, such as low income or senior transit users, who are not savvy about apps.



Additional Comments

1. I would like to see an increase in the operating budget of Winnipeg Transit. However , given the freeze in provincial funding this is difficult as the City has historically enjoyed a 50/50 funding arrangement with the province. During my years on Council we have steadily increased the transit budget and the number of transit routes.
2. I would like to explore the frequent service network and voted in favour of a staff report that is to address this idea.
3. I have been a long-standing champion for transit safety. If you look back at articles from 2012 you can see I raised this issue when there was very little discussion around Council.