

## QUESTIONNAIRE RESPONSE River Heights – Fort Garry

**John Orlikow**

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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 believe that transit is on the minds of Winnipeggers because we've seen a lot of growth in the city and transit is an essential part of managing that growth and giving people transportation options. People are talking about transit and I think that's great. For a long time in Winnipeg, transit wasn't top of mind and that led to it being ignored by past administrations. As we grow to a city of one million people, we must have a transit system that is built to support this growth. We've got to work to deliver a public transit experience that is reliable and convenient for users.

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?

I'd give our current transit system a B.

In my ward, we have really great service for people who want to use the the bus in River Heights, Crescentwood and Fort Garry. The bus rapid transit (BRT) line is going to help everyone heading to the University of Manitoba get there faster and take buses off the road on Pembina Highway, reducing congestion.

I do know that Lindenwoods, like a lot of areas of the city that are considered newer, lacks the services that older communities have. That's the challenge we have in the city with transit, how to maintain the service in older parts of the city, while also building out the service in newer areas as the city grows.

My vision for the future of transit in Winnipeg is one where it is as reliable -- and faster -- for users as taking a car. If we can deliver that, I think we'll see a lot more transit users and a greener overall city.

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?

All riders and drivers deserve to feel safe when using our transit system. To make this happen, I support expanding the test program on shields for drivers across our fleet of buses to We also need to support drivers and passengers with transit supervisors and police that can intervene when situations arise on the bus.

I would like to work with drivers and other stakeholders and to discuss other ideas we can implement to make buses safer for everyone.

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

Fair but stressed.

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 have always been a strong advocate for improving, expanding and funding our transit system. The city is continually investing significantly in transit, including upgrading the fleet, garages and BRT and I will continue my support, if re-elected.



Bonus question: What is your favourite Transit App and why?  
Winnipeg Bus Live. I like the real-time aspect of it.