

## QUESTIONNAIRE RESPONSE St. James Ward

### Kurt Morton

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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?

In my opinion, public transit was identified as the number one priority because of an increasing interest in transit due to growing traffic congestion and the rising costs of car ownership. People recognize Winnipeg Transit as a service that could be excellent, but isn't quite there yet. Strong leadership and a vision to grow and improve our transit system would make it so much better.

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 would give Winnipeg Transit a C. We do a good job of providing area coverage, and our rush hour routes are generally good. Our farebox recovery ratio is good when compared to similarly sized cities, showing that we run our system efficiently. We are being held back because of the lack of frequency during off-peak times, and due to a lack of busses to add service and alleviate crowding during rush hours. To further grow and improve our system, we must create a frequent service network and modernize our route network to better serve our city's needs.

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?

In order to create a better sense of safety, it is important to separate driving duties from fare enforcement duties. Drivers must not feel pressured to be responsible for fare enforcement. Long transfer times at isolated bus stations also feel unsafe and can be dangerous during the winter, something that a frequent transit network would fix.

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

Unreliable, Infrequent, Frustrating

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?

It is crucial that we work towards restoring the 50/50 funding agreement with the Province.

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

Winnipeg Transit +, as it's always reliable and makes up for the fact that my closest bus stop doesn't have an electronic sign board.