

## QUESTIONNAIRE RESPONSE Elmwood – East Kildonan Ward

### Robb Massey

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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 suspect that any increase in transit fare is an issue that hits families living in financial stress that this becomes an important issue at budget time. In Elmwood-EK this is certainly the case as many families rely on Winnipeg Transit to get them to work, school, appointments and transporting children to daycare. Beyond this, many families in Elmwood-EK have chosen to live here because of its proximity to downtown which allows them to have one less car or even to be car free.

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?

(also see question 4)

GRADE: B. There is always room for improvement but the drivers and transit workers show pride in what they do.

I see that a general lack of understanding the importance of transit is holding back the effectiveness and affordability of Winnipeg Transit.

My priority for Winnipeg Transit is that transit remains or becomes (in some cases) affordable and effective. A transit system that serves our neighbourhoods decreases vehicular traffic, decreases wear and tear on roads, decreases commute times, increases safety (by increasing the likelihood that there are people outside and walking around) and has spin off effects of supporting small businesses, improving the health of people in a community and it connects a city together. In other words, car drivers, truckers, cyclists and pedestrians all benefit from an effective and affordable transit system, which includes a rapid transit system.

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?

The number one factor is that transit is considered second class transportation. This shows itself in infrequent service, especially outside peak hours that could be solved by smaller buses, more frequent service to high density neighbourhoods like Chalmers (especially for shift workers and those who work in industrial areas of the city).

Of course we have a perception of low safety and to help change this I would encourage the increased use of security or police presence.

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

My vision is that Winnipeg Transit is Effective, Accessible and Affordable. It should not be more expensive to bus my family downtown (outside peak hours) than it is to drive and park. The economic benefits of an effective transit system to a city are clear, plus the health and lifestyle benefits.

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 will represent the needs of my neighbours who use transit as their primary form of transportation to ensure that we do have an effective and affordable transit system that benefits everyone. In a challenging financial climate, it is important to not copy what others are doing but to ensure that we have the best solution for Winnipeg.

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

Typically I use Google Maps to get my transit information since it also works for bicycle routes and walking routes.