

QUESTIONNAIRE RESPONSE

Transcona Ward

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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 public transit is deemed the number one priority by Winnipeggers both because it affects so many people on a daily basis, and the fact that there is such an obvious need for improvement.

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 the current transit system a grade of C-minus. It is being held back from getting a better grade due to routes with low frequency that discourage ridership in certain areas, inefficient routing that limits convenience and increases time to travel through the city, decreasing reliability levels and poor public perception of safety. Also, it's current use of diesel buses is holding it back, electric buses would lower the carbon footprint and they require lower maintenance, so eventually would lower operating costs. My vision for Winnipeg's transit system in the future would be a green fleet of electric buses, where effective and efficient scheduling increases ridership levels while keeping transit affordable.

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 feel the lack of safety is due to the perception that there is little consequence of poor behaviour on transit buses. I would encourage the training and placement of Bear Clan members on transit buses to deter violent and inappropriate behaviour. Using this volunteer program (even if providing honorariums), there could be a larger and more widespread known presence on buses to help enforce safety, while being cost effective. Listening to our drivers and the Transit Union who have the everyday knowledge of the obstacles they face would be the first step in implementing effective and realistic safety measures.

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

Inefficient

Outdated

Underused

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 admit that I previously believed that transit was receiving sufficient funding between transfers from the city and provincial grants. I would advocate for continued, and increased, funding from other levels of government as well as in the city budget so improvements could begin to be implemented as soon as possible. I would like to see a review of spending at Winnipeg Transit, to see if cost controls at a bureaucratic level could redirect funds to frontline service.

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

Transit. I like this app because I found it the most user-friendly as far as trip-planning.