

**Agenda – Standing Policy Committee on Public Works – November 29, 2022**

**REPORTS**

**Item No. 1                    Transit Advisory Committee Semi-Annual Report**

**WINNIPEG PUBLIC SERVICE RECOMMENDATION:**

1.        That this report be received as information.

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## DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

## STANDING COMMITTEE DECISION:

On September 11, 2017, the Standing Policy Committee on Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works concurred in the recommendation of the Winnipeg Public Service and approved the following:

1. That the Terms of Reference attached as Appendix A be approved for the Transit Advisory Committee (TAC). The scope of the TAC's work in the terms of reference may be broadened at the discretion of the Standing Policy Committee on Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works, which included the following:
  - 4.1 TAC reports to the Standing Policy Committee on Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works. It must provide a report to the Standing Policy Committee at least semi-annually.

## ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

**Title:** Transit Advisory Committee (TAC) Update

**Critical Path:** Standing Policy Committee on Public Works

### AUTHORIZATION

Author	Department Head	CFO	CAO
R. Young	G. Ewankiw	N/A	M. Jack

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This is the semi-annual administrative report to provide the Standing Policy Committee on Public Works (SPC PW) with key highlights of the Transit Advisory Committee's efforts and recommendations to the Public Service regarding safety on the Winnipeg Transit system.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That this report be received as information.

### REASON FOR THE REPORT

At its May 30, 2017, meeting, the Standing Policy Committee concurred with the recommendations (as amended) in the report identified as *Comprehensive List and Explanation of Current Safety Management Practices, Initiatives and Potential Concepts for the Benefit of Transit Operators and Customers* in that:

- A Transit Advisory Committee (TAC) be established following consultation with the Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU), the Winnipeg Association of Public Service Officers (WAPSO) and other stakeholders to review industry practices, assess and determine trends and recommend strategies to improve safety on the Winnipeg Transit system.
- Section 4.1 of the Terms of Reference for TAC state that "TAC reports to the Standing Policy Committee on Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works. It must provide a report to the Standing Policy Committee at least semi-annually".

### IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS

There are no implications to receiving this report as information.

<b>HISTORY/DISCUSSION</b>
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### Nasal Narcan Spray

On March 24, 2022, Council concurred in the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Public Works (SPC PW) and adopted the following:

1. That the following be referred to the Transit Advisory Committee for inclusion in its semi annual report to the Standing Committee at its June 9, 2022 meeting.
  - A. Strategies to place Nasal Narcan spray in transit buses and plan to provide online training videos that will teach people how to use nasal Narcan Spray to save a life.

During its meeting on April 11, 2022, the Transit Advisory Committee (TAC) discussed this motion and the challenges regarding the necessary training required and logistics such as appropriate storage as temperatures cannot be consistently achieved on buses and in the garage. It was agreed that this initiative may be better suited for Transit Inspector vehicles and further investigation on this opportunity is ongoing, including consultation with Legal Services.

TAC's recommendation is that the Public Service review the feasibility of Transit Inspectors being trained and equipped to use and carry Nasal Narcan Spray. The Public Service will report back to the Standing Committee following its investigations.

Further research is to be conducted and discussions will continue at the next TAC meeting.

### Transit Security Study – Public Engagement

On March 24, 2022, Council concurred in the recommendation of the SPC IRPW and adopted the following:

That the Office of Public Engagement be directed to solicit feedback from transit users and the general public on ways that transit safety could be enhanced, and that the public engagement be funded from existing resources within Winnipeg Transit.

Probe Research Inc. conducted a public survey in September 2022 regarding views on transit safety and the results will be presented at the next TAC meeting.

### Bus Operator Shields

On May 30, 2017, the SPC IRPW had concurred in the recommendation of the Winnipeg Public Service that a pilot project to test Bus Operator safety barriers to reduce the opportunity for Operator assaults be implemented.

In May 2020, Transit completed the fleet-wide installation of bus operator safety shields.

TAC has requested that the Public Service review Bus Operator Shields as new designs have been introduced to the market.

***TAC Motion:***

That the SPC IRPW ask the Public Service for an administrative report to conduct an investigation, including a bus operator survey, and report back as soon as possible on options for a pilot project to test a new style of bus shield. If the pilot is successful, a recommendation to the Public Service is to be made that new buses be equipped with the new shield design and retrofitting newer buses, following the appropriate procurement processes.

On August 31, 2022, the East Kildonan-Transcona Community Committee recommended to the Standing Policy Committee on Public Works that the Winnipeg Public Service be directed to provide a verbal report at its next meeting on implementing a full safety shield system for Winnipeg Transit on all new buses being procured.

The Public Service will await direction from the Standing Policy Committee on Public Works regarding next steps.

**Bus Shelters**

In early 2021, TAC started discussions on Transit Bus Shelters where it has been noted there has been an increase in people inhabiting bus shelters. Several reasons can be attributed to this increase, such as provincial requirements of facility closures due to the pandemic and a shortage of beds at homeless shelters. It was also discussed that many people may choose to stay in transit shelters due to the fear of catching COVID-19 at homeless shelters, fear of violence in shelters, or that they live with mental health issues that require more support.

The Public Service informed TAC of its approach and what steps are taken to assist these individuals. This is a difficult issue and something that is being experienced across Canada. TAC continues to engage in this discussion and has invited speakers to future TAC meetings in an effort to gain more knowledge and experience on this issue.

The Executive Director of the Downtown Community Safety Partnership will be asked to present on this topic at the next scheduled TAC meeting.

**Live Video Transmission**

The live video transmission trial has ended, the system was used 13 times for emergency events and 19 times for training from the dates of June 1, 2021 to June 1, 2022. The Public Service is working on a report to present to the TAC committee for discussion on next steps.

**TAC Membership**

The Public Service will put forth a report regarding TAC membership to the Standing Policy Committee on Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works to make the requisite appointments at the first meeting of the Standing Policy Committee in 2023.

**Winnipeg Indigenous Accord**

TAC is exploring the opportunity to be a joining partner and further discussion will take place at the next TAC meeting; noting there are some commitments to identify, reporting requirements and an administrative volunteer would be needed.

Community Committee Recommendation

On September 7, 2022, the Standing Policy Committee granted an extension of time of 120 days for the Winnipeg Public Service to report back on the following recommendation of the Assiniboia Community Committee:

1. That the Transit Advisory Committee be established as a formal committee to allow for all meetings to be clerked, livestreamed, public meetings.
2. That the Winnipeg Public Service be directed to report back with required amendments to the Transit Advisory Committee Terms of Reference to allow for all meetings to be clerked, livestreamed, public meetings.

**FINANCIAL IMPACT**

**Financial Impact Statement**    **Date:**    October 19, 2022

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**Project Name:**

**Transit Advisory Committee Update**

**COMMENTS:**

There is no financial impact as this report is for information only.

*Laurie Fisher*    *October 19, 2022*  
Laurie Fisher, CPA, CA  
Manager of Finance & Administration

**CONSULTATION**

This Report has been prepared in consultation with:

n/a

**OURWINNIPEG POLICY ALIGNMENT****OurWinnipeg 2045 (2022)**

Good Health and Well-Being Objective

1. Proactively identify and address threats to community safety and well-being. Promote physical and mental health by mitigating, planning for, responding to, and recovering from, emergencies, disasters and crime.  
Policy 4.6 Community Safety Facilitate a culture of safety and crime prevention across the City and community, by building trusting relationships to enable collaborative action.

**WINNIPEG CLIMATE ACTION PLAN ALIGNMENT**

This report is in accordance with the Winnipeg Climate Action Plan (WCAP) as per Direction 3.1 *Increase Use and Efficiency of Public Transit Systems* (p.46).

**WINNIPEG POVERTY REDUCTION STRATEGY ALIGNMENT**

Goal 5(a) Transportation System Equity is Enhanced – the affordability and accessibility of transportation and transit service is increased.

**SUBMITTED BY**

Department: Transit  
Division: Operations  
Prepared by: Richard Young, Manager of Operations  
Date: October 24, 2022