

SHERRI ROLLINS

For City Councillor
Fort Rouge – East Fort Garry



FUNCTIONAL TRANSIT WINNIPEG QUESTIONNAIRE

Q: 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?

A: Every day, tens of thousands of Winnipeg workers, students, seniors, and parents use our public transit system. Winnipeggers want a transit system that works for them to get them where they need to go, when they need to get there. We need a city council that is willing to make transit funding a priority and invest in a reliable, efficient transit system with frequent service on regional routes and more route options for underserved areas of our city. I am committed to working on council to make our public transit a system where everyone has access to affordable, reliable service.

Q: 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?

A: My vision for the future of Winnipeg Transit would be a system that integrates rapid transit with active transportation, regional high-volume routes with community bussing, and affordability with efficiency. We can only make our system work better for everyone if we make a serious commitment to investing in public transit.

Our transit system faces many challenges include core funding shortfalls and an ever-expanding city that makes it harder to create routes that work for everyone. I know that drivers, maintenance workers, and other transit staff are doing extraordinary work despite these challenges. I don't believe that the value and challenges of our public transit system can easily be summarized in a letter grade. I do know that we need to do more work in our community and make real investments in public transit so that our system can improve its service levels throughout the city.

Q: 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?

A: We all deserve to live in a city that is safe and drivers and riders should feel safe on public transit. To find a solution we need to look at the core issues that drive the reports of violence and harassment, including fare disputes, addictions and other social issues. As a city we need to address these underlying issues while we work collaboratively to develop practical measures to ensure safety now.

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

A: Underfunded, resilient, potential

Q: 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?

A: We need to create a vision for transportation in Winnipeg that doesn't just rely on cars. A transportation network that emphasizes public transit and active transportation will create a healthier society for our children, and we need to make the investments necessary to bring this vision forward. The misguided approach to transit funding demonstrated by the provincial government has put more strain on an already struggling transit system.

Winnipeg city hall must stand up and be clear about the need to restore the 50/50 funding agreement to provide certainty and stability to transit funding. Council must also work to make transit funding a priority in the city budget, while not relying on fare increases that make our system inaccessible to many low-income people.

Q: What is your favourite transit app, and why?

A: Navigo is my first stop for planning and bus trip, but I have used apps like Winnipeg Bus Live and found them to be useful when on the go.