

Meeting with the STC president Shawn Grice Jan. 3, 2011

On Jan. 3, four Transport Action members met with Shawn Grice, the new President and CEO of the STC, and Phil Bohay, Chief Operating Officer. We were met at the door and escorted by our always helpful STC "contact" Dean Madsen. Our group were Catherine Verrall (Transport Action Prairie pres.), Ron Haskell (Saskatchewan VP) from Melville, Frank Masich (active part of Transport 2000 since its beginning in 1976) from Saskatoon, and Pauline Ferland (Regina member). All of us frequently travel by STC.

We were very encouraged by the meeting. Grice and Bohay were both very enthusiastic about their work and their struggle to try new ideas. And they were most appreciative of our suggestions and support. The promised one hour went on another half hour at their request.;

Discussion covered:

>**History and mission of Transport Action (formerly Transport 2000)**

>**our activities in support of the STC** including

our new working committee called Friends of the STC., letters to media and government, displays at community events in Saskatoon and Regina ,STC information to our members within Sask.and beyond (in the national organization, Transport Action Canada, the STC is recognized as a model for other provinces)

publicity help Pauline (who has posted almost 100 STC flyers and hosted displays) told about some difficulties in communication with the marketing / publicity office.This is because the person we had been dealing with left and former information about our group would not have been passed on to the new person Todd MacKay Both Grice and Bohay will give him our information and urge him to keep in touch with us, about new flyers, special programs, design of flyers aimed at seniors (a senior should check it) , telephone contact number as well as email address on flyers., etc. Our suggestions should be sent to Todd MacKay and to Dean Madsen also.

making the terminal a more welcoming, people place.

- >full scheduling information available
- >community information (in a kiosk?), re hotels,youth hostel, Transit schedules, especially the routes that come near the STC., help agencies
- > signs of Regina's culture: Attractions, art from students, etc.

running early morning trips between Regina and Saskatoon .

Frank Masich gave much useful detail in a brief about why and how this could be accomplished, and be successful. STC people are working to do this when the time is

right. A new run cannot replace the 8 am run, so would add another trip each day. It would need to be express, attracting business/ government workers as well as citizens who want a longer day in the other city.

They appreciated Frank's input. He also talked (as they requested) about the Saskatoon/ Prince Albert route .Frank suggests an early morning route serving growing communities like Hague, Warman. "this was on our radar" said Shawn Grice." Your timing makes sense" .

Frank pointed out that Saskatchewan's demographics are changing, with many immigrants who expect public transportation

connections with VIA Rail.

Ron pointed out the convenient timely connections between the STC and VIA at Melville, going both east and west. This is now possible because of VIA's radical change in scheduling, going through Saskatchewan in the daytime instead of at night. STC should promote this advantage. In Melville there is a \$7.00 taxi service or a 20 minute walk between the bus and the train station.

disability issues will be the focus of a second meeting which Melissa Northe will set up

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*STC hopes to have all buses "accessible"

*The senior specials attracted over 20,000 senior trips in 2010

the STC is in process of being listed by various government departments as a travel option.

* STC has 6 buses equipped now with WiFi capacity, and will add 26 more.

We all promised to "keep in touch"

We in Transport Action greatly appreciate the listening , and sharing of ideas and information

Catherine Verrall.