

Your worship and common council,

City transit is a vital component to any city. Particularly in cities with an increase of poverty, city transit is the only viable network relied upon by many people.

Saint John has one of the highest poverty rates in Canada. Here, not all of us can afford cars. Our transit system becomes an integral framework for moving around this vast city for newcomers, students, elderly, and people who are either unable to drive or afford a vehicle.

I understand the city is in dire straights financially and will require cut backs across the board. Take these cuts from other areas. I challenge each board member to ride the bus for a day from home to work to see how our current bus system operates. Now imagine further cuts. This shell of a system cannot handle further cutbacks, it is barely functional as it is.

As a single mother who relies on transit, I implore you to consider other options. We need our feeder buses to the main routes. We need our Saturday service. We need our holiday service. Many of us live far away from the bus hubs, such as Lancaster Mall, McAllister Mall and Place 400. We require these feeder routes to get onto the main routes.

In a city full of poverty, a way out is transit. With a fully functioning transit service, people can attend school and work and contribute back to their community through volunteerism. Being able to arrive safely and on time is half the battle.

Thank you for your attention to this matter,

Genevieve Sweigard