

From: [Nicholas Davies](#)
To: [McGuigan, Patrick](#)
Subject: University Ave project: lack of planned BRT lanes
Date: Monday, January 06, 2020 10:51:23 PM

Dear Mr. McGuigan and Transportation Commission,

I've been following the planning of the University Ave project and attended the public meeting in December. My primary concern with the current plan is that it will deny the upcoming BRT system the dedicated lanes that make it BRT.

At the public meeting, Alder Shiva Bidar suggested that dedicated lanes might be added only if BRT is successful. That seems like a ludicrous reversal of cause and effect. Dedicated lanes are a core component of a BRT system. By not including those in the plan for University Ave, I worry that we're hobbling the BRT system before it can be adopted.

I know how often University Ave gets congested. I know how often buses end up 10-15 mins delayed after passing through that corridor. If BRT vehicles don't have dedicated lanes, they'll be in the lanes of traffic that are congested, and stuck behind cars until they get through that congestion.

From talking to a city traffic engineer, giving BRT vehicles the ability to bypass intersections and turn lights green will help, but not as much as actually creating the infrastructure that defines a BRT system. If these half-measures will actually be enough to keep BRT service on schedule and frequent, then I would welcome some analysis showing that. If the city isn't going to dedicate lanes to the BRT system, then the public deserves some published evidence that the dedicated lanes wouldn't be necessary. Otherwise we're just getting short-changed.

There will be growing pains around the creation of the BRT system. It's supposed to disrupt the status quo, that is the point. But it shouldn't be the BRT system itself that bears the brunt of it. It should be the individual car traffic that we're trying to reduce. We need to give the BRT system the infrastructure it needs from the start, or we may never get to give it that infrastructure as a "reward" for success.

I urge the commission to reconsider this piece of the plan. It's taken us far too long to get mass transit here in Madison. If it fails, it does so at huge expense. We cannot afford to let it flop because we placed the needs of cars above it.

Thank you,
Nick Davies
414 N. Segoe Rd 58B