From: <u>Amanda Reese</u>

To: <u>Transportation Commission</u>

**Subject:** Written Comments for Transportation Commission Agenda Item - April 9, 2025, Meeting

**Date:** Saturday, April 5, 2025 3:10:50 PM

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Good afternoon,

Am I still able to submit written comments for next Wednesday's meeting? If so, please add the comments below to the list. If not (or if I don't hear from you by EOD on Monday), I'll register to speak at the meeting and share these ideas then.

Thank you,

#### **Amanda Reese**

Resident of and employed within the Greater Madison Community (2005 - Present)

City of Fitchburg Resident (2011 - Present) City of Middleton Resident (2008 - 2011) Village of Cross Plains Resident (2005 - 2008) City of Evansville Resident (Birth - 2005)

Epic Systems Corporation Employee (2021 - Present) UW-Madison Employee (2016 - 2021) Madison Veterinary Specialists Employee (2015 - 2016) Michael Best & Friedrich Partner (2014-2015) UW Health Employee (2005 - 2014)

Comments Regarding Agenda:

# Extension of D2 to all-day Service to Verona

I am strongly in favor of the proposed extension of D2 to all-day service to Verona -- and hope this extension will be scheduled on all days, so it creates flexibility for individuals whose work-weeks include Saturdays and Sundays and travel needs require transportation outside the limited hours of the current schedule.

### **Planned Route Removal**

I am also in favor of the proposed route removals -- they seem appropriate in light of their scheduled times and the number of routes remaining available.

## Additional Suggestion - Route "D3" Creation

I recommend that the Commission consider, in addition to the planned changes, advising Madison Metro to shift the D2 route slightly to the East during every other of its runs -- creating instead what I'll refer to as "D3" here. D3 would benefit of even more individuals and businesses than those sure to benefit from the planned D2 extension. This would allow a greater number of individuals in the Cities of Madison and Fitchburg to use bus service more, and would allow individuals from throughout the greater Madison community to work at and patronize businesses along Seminole Highway more easily and frequently. D3 would also create an option to reduce the number of intoxicated drivers on our streets -- making the area safer for all.

D3 might take the following path:

- Break away from Route D2 at Seminole Highway
- Continue South on Seminole Highway with stops at
  - o Warwick Way
  - Sentinel Pass
  - o McKee Road

- Sub-Zero Parkway
- Continue West on Lacy Road, with a stop at Rock Ridge Road
- Continue North on Fitchrona Road to McKee Road via the round-about -- to serve the people currently served by the Fitchrona/Nesbitt bus stop
- Continue West on McKee Road, stopping at two new stops at the intersection of McKee & Manchester and in front of the Bright Child Learning Center for any waiting riders or riders needing to get off the bus (otherwise continuing on)
- Continue West on McKee Road to North Main Street
- Continue South on North Main Street into Verona
- Merge with Extended D2 at Verona Ave, and continue on to Epic along the D2 Route

#### Benefits of these changes:

- 1. Makes transit more readily available to all individuals living and spending time in the route D2 area. This is a critical need for our community as we bring greater density into the area and as people recognize the environmental and societal imacts of driving and of increasing the number of cars in our community as our population grows.
- 2. Expands the population of people who can use transit beyond the current Route D users, including individuals who:
  - do not have the option to use a car for transportation due to physical impairments and limitations
  - o cannot afford a vehicle
  - temporarily do not have a working vehicle
  - prefer not to drive during extreme weather
  - usually commute by bicycle or walking -- and need an alternative to driving during times of extreme weather.
- 3. Provides a safe option to get home for intoxicated patrons of the Badger Tavern, Seminole Tap, Hop Haus Brewing Company (in both Fitchburg and in Verona!), Flying Hound, and probably other stops along the way that aren't jumping out to me. Also allows those establishments to create their own "shuttles" to different community events -- this can be a great supplement to transit on Badger game days, during certain festivals/concerts, etc.
- 4. Provides greater flexibility for potential bus riders to park somewhere convenient for them and hop onto a bus. This used to be possible through a number of areas of Fitchburg, but Madison Metro removed many of the stops that facilitated this in its last major route reduction. So, now people can more easily pass through Fitchburg than take transit to/from it.
- 5. Creates flexibility for transit users to get to Blackhawk Church in Fitchburg.
- 6. Creates potential for SubZero and Promega to attract potential employees who rely on transit for commuting.
- 7. Will support patrons of the future planned Edgewood College Recreational Campus at the intersection of South Seminole Highway and Lacy Road.
- 8. Creates a transit option for employees and volunteers of Savanna Oaks Middle School and Stoner Prairie Elementary School in the City of Fitchburg -- and for parents and family members of students who want to attend student events at those schools, but who are limited due to unavailability of transit options.
- 9. Opens up more businesses to potential customers who use transit -- especially if D3 is coupled with bike use through individually-owned bikes or bike-share programs.
- 10. Normalizes and destigmatizes the use of transit by expanding ridership and visibility to areas not currently served.

Thank you for considering these ideas.