



## LA FOLLETTE HIGH SCHOOL

702 Pflaum Road ● Madison, Wisconsin 53716-2167 ■ 608.204.3600 ▼ <https://lafolletteweb.madison.k12.wi.us/>

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Daniel A. Nerad, *Superintendent of Schools*

April 10, 2012

Dear Gary L. Poulson and members of the Transit and Parking Commission,

LaFollette students and other residents who live in the Owl Creek, Twin Oaks, Liberty Place and Lost Creek neighborhoods don't have adequate transportation. There is currently a Metro Transit Supplemental School Service bus route that provides transportation to and from school; however, lack of a regular daily Metro bus route affects many LaFollette and surrounding schools' students along with other residents living in these neighborhoods.

There are 47 LaFollette High School students living in these neighborhoods, many of whom have limited access to transportation. Student's with transportation barriers report negative academic, economic and social impacts. They have been unable to participate in extracurricular activities such as athletics, school clubs, the after school homework program, volunteer and employment opportunities and summer school. In addition, when students have missed the school service bus in the morning, they have been unable to attend school for the entire day.

In November 2011 LaFollette students living in these areas were invited to a meeting during their lunch period to talk about their neighborhoods. The meeting was a collaborative effort by a group of LaFollette staff, two Public Health Nurses, and the City of Madison's Youth Services Coordinator. Lack of transportation was the most frequently identified concern by students at the meeting. A small subgroup of these students met with a representative from Metro in January 2012 and has continued to meet with the goal of developing strategies to lobby for the funding of a daily Metro bus route in the next City of Madison budget.

Representatives of our work group will be attending the Transit and Parking Commission on 04/11/12 to request that the issue be on the agenda for the next meeting on May 9, 2012. Students are interested in being present for discussion at the meeting; the last day of school is before the June meeting and student's summer obligations and lack of transportation may interfere with attendance. We look forward to meeting with you and respective personnel. We hope to make a difference and create an improvement in these neighborhoods. If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact us.

Sincerely,

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