

From: [Mimosa Books and Gifts](#)
To: [Transportation Commission](#)
Subject: Public Comment for Transportation Commission - Re: What should we do with buses on State Street - 400 Block?
Date: Tuesday, April 13, 2021 6:51:44 PM

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We object to the idea of getting rid of a transportation system that keeps State Street accessible not only to customers who may not have reliable transportation but also to State Street employees. Ever since we have been involved with Mimosa (since 2006) there has *always* been *at least* one person working for us who relies solely on the bus system to get to work each day. Even right now with our tiny team of 4 regular employees, changing the bus route would affect our staff negatively. It's a great perk that we often advertise when conducting hiring interviews.

Of course, we understand it would probably just be a matter of walking a few more blocks to get to a different stop, but the idea of removing buses from State Street is disturbing to us even more so because it represents a pattern of changing systems so that they work more in the favor of those who "have"...in this case those who have cars and money for parking and use State Street as a source of weekend entertainment rather than a livelihood or home. One of our very favorite things about downtown Madison is that it's a place where people from all walks of life convene. Accessible and convenient public transportation is an important part of that vision.

Underlying all this is our strong sense of dread that State Street is changing for the worse - and not because of "noisy" buses. The high rises that have been going up over the past few years, cleverly using loopholes in the building height restriction codes to surge ever higher, will soon block out most of the light on a street where restaurants and cafes rely on the sun to heat their seating areas in spring and fall. And if properties keep getting sold to developers the way they have been, buying out classic State Street businesses like Community Pharmacy and Room of One's Own, then State Street is not going to be the fun, quirky local shopping district that the authors of those articles are envisioning...and it won't be because of buses. So...the buses hardly seem to be the main concerns on State Street, in our opinion.

I know that it may seem a bit of an overreaction to feel all this just because of the bus stop proposal. But to us, it just reeks of wanting to remove the parts of this neighborhood that some people view as less desirable (where all kinds of people live and work) as part of a drive to make this a place suited for rich visitors and professionals. It all leaves a bad taste in our mouths because this place that we love is showing itself more and more vulnerable to the interests of developers with a lot of money and no real investment in the community as it exists outside of their financial gain.

Thank you,
Ashley Leavy
Owner - Mimosa Books & Gifts



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