

EMAIL FROM JONATHAN MERTZIG – jmmertzig@uwalumni.com

Dear members of the TPPB,

I am writing to encourage the TPPB to consider a modest delay to adopting fare policy (agenda item 66899). For a decision that will have major long-term impacts on Metro's riders, it is unusual for public engagement and decisions to have been made entirely during the summer recess of UW and other local higher education institutions. University students and staff make up a high proportion of Metro ridership. A delay to late September or early October could ensure that Metro has time to significantly engage the campus community for input.

Overall, I am pleased with many elements of Metro's current proposal. The account-based system combined with mobile payment systems will bring Metro in line with modern systems used in many other cities, but it is also important that we retain cash options. The Madison Area Bus Advocates submitted a position paper that outlines the many reasons why a fully "cashless" system would be detrimental to many riders.

It is disappointing, however, that Metro gave fare-free transit only a cursory examination in their analysis of fare options. I hope whatever decision is made doesn't signify an end to discussions for how Madison could be a leader in fare-free transit.

Thank you,

Jonathan Mertzig
member Madison Area Bus Advocates
Midvale Heights/District 10 resident