

Feedback Received on Transporting National Guard

Type of Feedback	Amount Recieved
Phone Calls	7
Social Media	16
Emails	51
TOTAL	74

Feedback via Phone

1. Customer called and wanted to know if it was Metro's decision to TRANSPORT the National Guard into town. He made the remark that Metro is being "complicit in this" and that he was upset and wanted some kind of public statement. He didn't want to leave any contact info.
2. He wants to know why we are using our public buses to transport National Guards who are using deadly forces on peaceful protesters?!
3. STOP helping the police stage in riot gear downtown against protesters! The people who are being gassed and hurt are the same folks who RELY on your service to get to work, or school.
4. Caller saw Metro buses that were being used to transport the National Guard and the riot police on Monday, 6/1. Caller does not appreciate seeing this and feels that with the reduced service it is a slap in the face that Metro can put buses into service for something like that. I was profoundly disturbed to learn that Madison Metro is providing staffed buses to transport the National Guard and riot police. Am I paying for this as a taxpayer? Your service and routes are lacking for years and at the wave of a wand you become a military transport? I expect so much more.
5. My name is Marcel and I am a resident of Madison. It was brought to my attention that the metro bus system has been used to transport the National Guard as well as Riot police to the ongoing protests downtown.

Both of these groups are responsible for inciting violence against the protesters and the police are responsible for brutalizing Black bodies. I am writing then, to demand that the metro bus system stop transporting the Riot police and National Guard.

6. DO NOT transport riot police or national guard to protests. Increased police presence increases violence. By transporting militarized riot police or national guard, you are **CONDONING SYSTEMIC VIOLENCE AGAINST BLACK PEOPLE**. Do not be complicit to oppression. Firmly position yourselves on the right side of this movement and Madison will support you.
7. The passenger is disappointed that Metro would transport police officers and the national guard. It is unjust that so many low-income communities don't have great access to transit and to see the busses used in this way disappoints many tax payers in the city. He would like to note that it is ironic that some buses include signs that say "no guns" and would then proceed to coordinate with the police.

Feedback via Social Media

1. @mymetrobus is it true you are using buses the transport the national guard/riot police? If so, **STOP AIDING THE MILITARIZATION OF LAWFUL PROTEST**.
2. @mymetrobus I'm shocked and upset that Madison Metro Transit is transporting police to aid in actions against peaceful protesters. Is this going to continue?
3. I lend my voice in demanding you immediately deny transport and support to police downtown, apologize to #MadisonWI black community clearly and own your responsibility **WITHOUT** blaming protesters, and do your part to end the unjust curfew and violent police presence. Further, demonstrate a commitment to center black voices by providing aid and supporting local efforts to defund the police, @FreeThe350, and give black people decision making power over safety.
4. I do not want @mymetrobus transporting any "law enforcement" anywhere, period.
5. Stop transporting riot police and the national guard.
6. So do the national guard ride for free? Or do they have to pay \$2. Also, I thought no guns were allowed on your buses...shame on you all.

7. Why not side with the people in this time instead of assisting the military and police???
8. Absolutely shameful that you'll transport riot police and national guard. Rethink your actions and don't help aid in allowing violence against peaceful protestors. You are complicit!
9. Be responsible to the citizens and resident you carry and work for. Do no harm. Do not work directly against them by aiding police and riot police in suppressing, silencing and violating their human rights.
10. Sad to hear you will be transporting the national guard instead of standing by the people in your community. Bringing more guns and riot gear into this situation won't help anything. Shame on you.
11. STOP TRANSPORTING RIOT POLICE AND NATIONAL GUARD
12. Are you transporting the national guard and riot police?? How is this serving the City of Madison's mission to be "inclusive, innovative and thriving"? Please stop this plan immediately!
13. Why are you aiding the escalation of violence at these protests? How can you shuttle riot police and National Guard to go brutalize your own community, your regular riders?!?! Shame on Madison Metro.
14. Stop assisting the police and national guard!
15. You know what followed this event? Five nights of nightly protesting, the demonstrators were terrorized by the MPD with pepper spray, tear gas, force and brutality. By providing your buses to transport violent riot officers in our city you have directly contradicted the public service that public transit stands for and are complicit in any violence against protesters justifiably responding to systemic racism. Metro Transit must immediately deny transportation and any support to police presence, apologize publicly to the black community in a clear way that acknowledges responsibility for supporting violence by police without offsetting blame to protesters, and do all that you can to end the curfew and police presence in Madison. Finally, I want to urge Metro Transit to commit to centering black voices by providing material aid and supporting local efforts calling to defund police, release black people from jail, and give black people decision making power over safety. A good place to begin would be support and solidarity to Urban Triage, Freedom Inc. and Free the 350 Bail Fund.

16. I love the bus drivers and staff who have helped me over the years. I've been riding the bus throughout my time growing up in Madison and beyond. BUT, I am ASHAMED of the directors and managerial staff of Metro Transit. Not only do they force their workers into unsafe conditions for too little pay and not enough breaks (my drivers should NEVER be in pain from not having time to use a restroom), but the higher ups at Madison Metro have betrayed the community time and time again. Most Recently, by transporting RIOT POLICE into our community to shower tear gas and pepper spray down on protesters fighting for the rights of black people. The protesters harmed included black youth and medics, and on Sunday, May 31st there is footage of the riot cops who harmed these protesters and arrested 15 people (during a PANDEMIC), well there's footage of these riot squads just loading up on the Madison Metro Transit busses to get safely carted home. I wonder how the parents of these kids feel about putting their kids on the Metro buses to send them to school? I wonder how the drivers who support these movements feel about getting behind the wheel? I know how I will feel when as someone without a car who relies on public transit to get around: ANGRY! Have you all apologized yet to the community for shuttling riot cops into our streets to shower toxic chemicals on protesters, including black youth, medics, and people documenting history? Do your drivers know that this was done? Does your staff? Any idea whether you maybe hurt your own staff's children??

Feedback via Email

1. I am an avid user of the Madison Metro Bus system. I urge you to cease compliance with the Madison PD and the transportation of police and national guard to mobilize against protestors. Please follow in the footsteps of the NYC Transit Union and refuse to support the silencing of first amendment protestors. I love and support the work you do and feel for the drivers who continue to work in these tumultuous times, but strongly urge you to cease working with the police and national guard. These buses are to transport people, not militarized police.
2. You are a vital part of the community and have been a key part of my experience of living in Madison. I want to request that you stop allowing buses to be used to transport police officers. Your priority should be keeping people of Madison safe. Allowing buses to be used by riot police puts people of color in danger. This is contrary to the public service goal of Metro Transit.



3. I was profoundly disturbed to learn that Madison Metro is providing staffed buses to transport the National Guard and riot police. Am I paying for this as a taxpayer? Your service and routes are lacking for years and at the wave of a wand you become a military transport? I expect so much more.

4. **Received a total of 48 emails with the following writing:**

To Justin Stuehrenberg and Metro Transit,

I am contacting you to demand Metro Transit immediately withdraw from providing transportation for violent riot police who have been terrorizing protesters, including children and medics, in Madison with pepper spray, tear gas, force, and brutality. Providing your busses as to bring violent riot officers in and out of our city is in direct opposition to the public service that public transit stands for, and you should be ashamed not only being complicit in but actively supporting police brutality, the murders of black people, and violence against protesters justifiably responding to systemic racism. We know that this decision is not a representation of the bus drivers we know and love in our communities, and using these busses and demanding workers serve as a literal vehicle for state-sanctioned violence is reprehensible. Bus drivers who oppose Metro Transit's part in uplifting state-sanctioned violence should make their outrage known and join the community in demanding accountability.

I demand that Metro Transit: (1) Immediately denies transportation and any support for the police presence; (2) Apologizes publicly to the black community in a clear way that acknowledges responsibility for supporting violence by police without offsetting blame to protesters; (3) Do all it can to end the curfew & police presence in Madison; (4) Demonstrates a commitment to center black voices, by providing and advocating for material aid and supporting local efforts calling to defund the police, release black people from jail, and give black people decision making power over safety. I personally recommend that Madison Metro Transit provides direct solidarity and support to: Urban Triage, Freedom Inc., & Free the 350 Bail Fund. Black Lives Matter!