

Hans Noeldner hans\_noeldner

mabaaa@yahoogroups.com>

9:42 AM (5  
hours ago)

to Madison

Most of us who move to suburbia or exurbia to get away from the noise of the city don't STAY away. Instead we return again and again in our cars and pickup trucks and SUVs, thereby making noise in the city all the worse.

We - collectively - need to choose attitudes, habits, and technologies which return civility to our cities again. Indiscriminately blasting high levels of noise whenever we are doing something dangerous is a less than optimal "solution".

Hans Noeldner  
Sierra Club Clean Transportation Committee  
608-444-6190

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dpwaugh:

mabaaa] <mabaaa@yahoogroups.com>

8:29 AM (6  
hours ago)

to mabaaa

I am the owner of the Mendota Lake House bed and breakfast on East Gorham and these alarms are having a negative effect on my business. While we have plenty of noise on this very busy street, the beeping cuts through it all and has generated complaints about the "beeping buses." I also work at Memorial Library and it was my colleague killed by the bus. I do not believe a beeping bus would have prevented that accident. I don't think the issue was that my friend Maureen didn't see the bus, its just that she didn't expect the bus to launch out into the crosswalk while she had the right of way. When everyone is in a hurry and traffic is thick, accidents will happen -- beeping alarms blaring or not. Tragically, another of my colleagues, Edith Dixon, was killed a year after Maureen by a university truck that was backing up. The beeper alarm was active but the tragedy occurred anyway.

So, in my opinion, this metro alarm system is simply noise pollution that we should seriously reconsider.

Best,  
David Waugh  
704 E Gorham

'Tom Christensen'

[SASYNA-Discussions] <SASYNA-Discussions@yahoogroups.com>May 28 (12  
days ago)

to SASYNA-Discuss.

Thank you, Thank you, Alison!

Those bus beepers are driving us nuts! Wake us up at night. Blare thru the hood. Nobody who lives in dense hoods like on the Isthmus would have made this decision. Maybe where busses run thru the corn fields, and houses are far apart, the noise can be ignored...maybe. But not in the older parts of Madison....its an assault on any measure of peace and quiet. I'll be at the 10 June meeting cuz I know number of bodies make a diff. Please others, attend. And if you can't attend, write someone....do something, or this terribly excessive Cover the Driver's Butt protocol will endure...to the serious detriment of our shared quality of life.

Tom C.

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Dee Grimsrud [SASYNA-Discussions] <SASYNA-Discussions@yahoogroups.com> May 29 (11 days ago)

to SASYNA-Discuss.

I now avoid riding the bus because the beeping is so annoying. I also wonder about the negative long-term effects the repetitive noise stress will have on the bus drivers. Have any studies been done on operators of vehicles that beep when they back up?

cdebevec@rocketmail.com [SASYNA-Discussions] <SASYNA-Discussions@yahoogroups.com> May 29 (11 days ago)

to SASYNA-Discuss.

Its been my observation that not all all the city busses beep - some sneak up on you. In fact it happened just this am - Im looking at the timetable and turn around and theres a bus right there. Im not sure why some beep and some don't.

Or what the rationale is?. If its to alert sight- impaired people - well, there's no need. The loud squealing brakes do a good enough job alerting you that a bus is in the vicinity.

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MrillCom Ingram [SASYNA-Discussions] <SASYNA-Discussions@yahoogroups.com> May 27 (13 days ago)

to SASYNA-Discuss.

I would like to chime in to say that this "alert" system is counter productive in my short experience.

Having just ridden my bike through the intersection of East Washington and First St. I encountered three buses, two inbound and one out, all beeping away. It just added to the general din and felt very distracting. It did nothing to help me focus on safety,

Mrill Ingram

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Grant Foster [SASYNA-Discussions] <SASYNA-Discussions@yahoogroups.com> May 27 (13 days ago)

to SASYNA-Discuss.

I agree. All of the close calls I've had with Metro buses have been bus operator error (usually passing me without 3' clearance) and the signal would have done nothing to increase my safety. I honestly don't even understand the theoretical advantage of this solution. What is the compelling scenario in which a pedestrian or cyclist is struck by a bus due to the fact that the pedestrian or cyclist wasn't aware that the bus was there?

I just saw a Metro bus very nearly squash a cyclist at Eastwood/Division a few weeks back. Bus was eastbound on Eastwood, cyclist was eastbound on the path. Cyclist continued straight through the crosswalk on a green cross signal and the Metro driver pulled a right turn right in front of the cyclist (in spite of the fact that there is prominent signage for road users to yield to people in the crosswalk). The beeping signal may have alerted the cyclist that they were about to get right hooked, but wouldn't have prevented this. Ongoing safety training and high quality and alert Metro drivers

will prevent this. (To the driver's credit, he at least stopped the bus, got out, and made sure the woman wasn't dead before proceeding on his route).

I do find the beeping very distracting when I'm riding my bike. Riding down Jenifer St, I'm now bombarded by the beeping. It doesn't tell me if the bus is going to overtake me or is slowing to pull into a stop behind me. All it does is create one more signal for my brain to process and takes my attention away from navigating the potholes in the street and keeping myself in a safe and predictable position in the road.

I'd really like to see some evidence of the value of this new form of pollution. If there isn't any, I'd support having this program shut down.

Grant

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Fred Mohs <fred@mmwp-law.com>

May  
22

to Alder, me, kennedymanor1, Susanne

By this time I assume you have heard from Allison Smith regarding the bus audible alert system problem at the corner of Langdon and Wisconsin. I have to say that I hardly heartily agree with Allison on this subject, not only on her behalf, but for the dozens of other people who are subjected to the bus sound when they are trying to sleep. At night the Langdon/Wisconsin Avenue corner is not particularly busy either for traffic or for pedestrians. Would it not be possible for the bus driver to turn off his buzzer at that corner and to take a little extra time to check out the sidewalk for possible pedestrians before making his turn. This could be done by opening the bus door or even proceeding very slowly around the corner. Frankly, I can't see why a bus that is slowing so that it can stop at the stop sign can't observe whether or not a pedestrian is approaching through the front windshield of the bus. We are not talking about an area where there are hordes of people, like on the Square or State Street, but a relatively quiet residential neighborhood.

As you know, here in Mansion Hill we try to be good neighbors to one another and it would not be too much to ask for the bus company to try to be a good neighbor to us. I am hoping that we can pull out all of the stops to try to resolve this problem. Good neighborhoods solve problems like this. They don't just let them go on and become bad neighborhoods.

P.S. As to the blind spot problem, wouldn't it be better to have some type of a camera with a screen that was activated when the turn signal went on so that the driver could see the blind spot? This would solve the problem of having a possibly deaf pedestrian, but in the meantime, just having the bus driver open the door and look out to get a good view of the sidewalk before turning would get the job done.

Sincerely,

Frederic E. Mohs

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to me, mnaboard

allison,

Thanks for taking this issue on. I commute by bike every day through the downtown and have been increasingly irritated by the level of noise. Between the leaf/dust blowers, the bus beepers and the backup beepers I find it stressful. I have been thinking about writing the City about the added bus noise for a while but have been reluctant to take on another issue myself. However, I am glad to support your efforts and will also ask that this issue get put on the next MNA Board agenda for discussion.

thanks,  
john

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**From:** "Sandra Ward" <[sward@yahoogroups.com](mailto:sward@yahoogroups.com)>  
**Sent:** May 14, 2015 12:10:34 PM CDT  
**To:** Patty Prime <[pprime@gmail.com](mailto:pprime@gmail.com)>, [tlna@yahoogroups.com](mailto:tlna@yahoogroups.com)  
**Subject:** Re: [tlna] Fwd: Re: Metro Transit audible alert system

Thank you Allison for working on this important issue. I agree that noise pollution is a huge problem and that the buses in Madison are adding to that problem. I recently sent a message to Madison Metro asking that they attend to fixing the brakes on the buses because many of them screech horribly. I haven't heard anything back from them.

Sandy

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**From:** "STRAWSER, Charles" <[cstrawser@fpm.wisc.edu](mailto:cstrawser@fpm.wisc.edu)>  
**Date:** June 10, 2015 at 8:36:47 AM CDT  
**To:** "[GaryPoulson@gmail.com](mailto:GaryPoulson@gmail.com)" <[GaryPoulson@gmail.com](mailto:GaryPoulson@gmail.com)>  
**Cc:** "[jackkear@cityofmadison.com](mailto:jackkear@cityofmadison.com)" <[jackkear@cityofmadison.com](mailto:jackkear@cityofmadison.com)>, "[marsha.rummel@danenet.org](mailto:marsha.rummel@danenet.org)" <[marsha.rummel@danenet.org](mailto:marsha.rummel@danenet.org)>, "[ckamp@cityofmadison.com](mailto:ckamp@cityofmadison.com)" <[ckamp@cityofmadison.com](mailto:ckamp@cityofmadison.com)>, "[bikies@danenet.org](mailto:bikies@danenet.org)" <[bikies@danenet.org](mailto:bikies@danenet.org)>  
**Subject:** Re: [Bikies] poll on Madison Metro turn signals  
Mr. Poulson, Chair of Transit & Parking commission,

I commute by bike from the near east side through downtown to campus almost every day all year round, and have since 1997.

On the occasional days when I don't ride, I take the bus, and I'm very grateful that we have a transit system that is the equivalent of transit systems in some cities much larger than Madison.

But I find the beeping the buses make an annoyance. I've already started trying to tune it out, so I think at best the beeping is a distraction, and at worst it's entirely possible that it makes the street environment less safe for some users. Last week as I approached the intersection of Williamson/Winnebago and Riverside, I heard the #4 bus (bound for the North Transfer Point) beeping from several blocks further west on Williamson. It passed the stop at Winnebago and Riverside and continued down Eastwood Boulevard. The beeping never stopped. I thought at the time that the mechanism must have been stuck for it to beep continuously like that, but after reading many of the comments on the bikies-list serv about the intended function of the audible beeping, it may not have been stuck at all. Perhaps the bus was changing lanes on Williamson and again on Winnebago. The audible turn signal is not only not achieving it's

intended objective of increasing safety for many road users, but is probably decreasing safety for some, and it should no longer be used.

Thanks for your time, and for considering my opinion during the presentation of the Metro Audible Turn Signal/Alert System at this Wednesday's Transit & Parking Commission meeting.

Chuck Strawser  
1801 Helena St  
Madison WI 53704

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From: **john coleman**  
Date: Tue, Jun 9, 2015 at 10:39 PM  
Subject: [Bikies] Metro beeping system  
To: [GaryPoulson@gmail.com](mailto:GaryPoulson@gmail.com)  
Cc: [marsha.rummel](mailto:marsha.rummel), [ckamp@cityofmadison.com](mailto:ckamp@cityofmadison.com), "[bikies@danenet.org](mailto:bikies@danenet.org)" <[bikies@danenet.org](mailto:bikies@danenet.org)>

Mr. Poulson, Chair Transit & Parking Commission,

As a daily bike commuter for 20 years through the center of town I am very aware of the city buses. I love our bus system. On the few occasions I can not ride my bicycle, the Madison bus system is my preferred alternative. However, I have been distressed by the audible beeping noise that many buses make these days. I find it distracting and stressful as I find my way through the downtown. The level of noise in general in the downtown is excessive and the addition of yet another disorienting beeping noise makes my daily bike commute more stressful and difficult to navigate.

If the audible system does anything, I think it makes the streets less safe by creating additional auditory confusion and sensory overload.

Thank you for considering my view during the presentation of the Metro Audible Turn Signal/Alert System at this Wednesday's Transit & Parking Commission meeting.

john coleman

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