

Kari L. Ehrhardt

Metro Bus Comments, 4/10/13

As a resident of the Sheboygan Avenue neighborhood, and as a Metro passenger who relies almost solely on public transportation, I would like to express my concerns regarding Metro's proposed changes as they may impact service to my area and my ability to continue living in Madison without a vehicle. One of the major draws of the Sheboygan Avenue neighborhood is in fact the easy access to numerous bus routes, which include weekday routes 2, 14, 15, 56, and 57, and routes 2 and 8 on the weekends. A significant percentage of the area's residents, which include retirees, students, and professionals, many of whom like myself do not have vehicles, rely on this easy access to transportation in order to meet their daily needs.

I am particularly concerned about the alteration of route 14 so that it no longer serves Sheboygan Avenue altogether, and what appears to be the elimination of the route 15 in the commute direction on Sheboygan Avenue during certain times. I recognize that Metro is proposing additional service adjustments to enable the route 2 to run more frequently during peak hours, and is also proposing altering routes 9 and 10 so that they now provide service to Sheboygan Avenue. Despite these proposed adjustments, I believe that there will be a significant gap in service to Sheboygan Avenue during non-peak hours from 6 p.m. until the end of service given that route 9 ends service at approximately 6 p.m., and route 10 ends service at approximately 3 p.m. Students and commuters rely on buses that run later into the evening hours, past Metro's defined evening peak hours of 3-6 p.m. On numerous occasions, I have personally been on off-peak evening buses for routes 14 and 15 that have been completely full of students and

commuters traveling to the Sheboygan Avenue area. I cannot imagine what will be the case if these students and commuters can only take the route 2, or a limited route 15 during these later evening times. As service is now, whenever I have taken the route 2 to Sheboygan Avenue during non-peak hours, the bus has been standing room only. I believe that additional consideration needs to be given for non-peak evening service to the Sheboygan Avenue area, and I urge Metro to look into this issue more fully before implementing the proposed changes this August.

In addition to the issue of limited service past 6 p.m., some of my neighbors have expressed concerns that they rely on route 14 for specific reasons. One of my neighbors, a retiree without a vehicle, expressed that she uses route 14 frequently to travel to one of the UW Health facilities on the west side. The proposed maps for routes 9 and 10 do not appear to provide service to this area. Another neighbor expressed that route 14 enables him to take advantage of community programming through Madison School and Community Recreation near Hoyt Park. It also seems that routes 9 and 10 will not provide service to this area. As I speak with my neighbors about these service cuts, it becomes apparent that their concerns are not too uncommon. The route 14 has been a staple mode of transportation for numerous residents on Sheboygan Avenue for a very long time, and it will pose a significant challenge to these residents to no longer have access to this route.

Thank you for your time and for your consideration of these concerns. I hope that you will carefully consider all available options, as well as the transportation needs of the community, before you implement changes to Metro service this August.