

To: Members of the City of Madison Transportation Commission  
From Don and Irene Golembiewski, 449 Toepfer Ave., Madison  
Date: October 13, 2020  
Subject: Proposed bus stop at 449 Toepfer Ave.  
Item 6 on meeting Agenda for 10-14-2020

The plan to site a new bus stop directly in front of 449 Toepfer Ave. has been a last minute change in a multi-year project planning process. We were notified only on September 30 of this year. This does not allow time to work with Madison Metro staff and the city on mutually agreeable options. We would appreciate as careful consideration on this bus stop siting decision as went into the rest of the project and process.

We understand the goals of the 2013-17 Transportation Development Plan (TDP) and how they apply to bus stop placement. The goals are consolidation of bus stops for efficiency, route timing and cost savings for fiscal responsibility. Please give serious consideration to some alternative options provided below that would still meet these goals and fit into the timeline of this project. The TDP offers guidelines that need not strictly apply to all situations.

### **OBJECTIONS TO THE SITING OF THE BUS STOP AT 449 TOEPFER Ave.**

#### **SAFETY:**

Reduced visibility – The bus stop would be before an intersection.

- A stopped bus would block visibility for cars and for crossing pedestrians.
- Three driveways exit onto Toepfer Avenue directly behind and across from the proposed bus stop area reducing visibility for pedestrians and drivers.

Pedestrian and bicycle traffic – This is a very busy intersection for pedestrians and bicyclists especially during commute times.

- It is a direct route for children and families walking to two neighborhood schools, Queen of Peace and Midvale and high school students walking to West High School.
- There are many visitors to the Jacob's House, the Frank Lloyd Wright, UNESCO World Heritage Site, who walk the block and all the street corners of that intersection.
- This intersection is a "Pokemon Go" gathering site, an augmented reality game, which brings many drivers and walkers to the intersection using mobile device [GPS](#) to locate, capture, battle, and train virtual creatures, which appear as if they are in the player's real-world location.

RESIDENTIAL LOCATION: This is a quiet residential street with only homes, no businesses, and is a narrow street. This is uncommon for Madison Metro routes.

- The siting would be directly at the front entrance to a home.
- The home entrance and front porch are built close to the street.
- Another newly installed bus stop has just been placed directly across the street from 449 Toepfer Ave. for westbound buses traveling South on Toepfer Ave.
- This proposed siting will affect the quality of life for us, as 449 Toepfer residents, who spend much time outdoors in the small, corner yard. It adds not one, but two bus stops directly in front of our home.

## NEIGHBOR PREFERENCE, HISTORIC PRECEDENT

- Neighbors on this and other blocks prefer and expected the bus stop be placed 2 1/2 houses down (approximately 181 feet) where it has been for many years, 3920 Meyer. There was a cement bus pad and bench installed until the beginning of this project.
- Placement of the bus stop at 3920 Meyer is at the side of the home and the yard has mature arbor vitae as natural vegetative screening, which serves as a barrier from noise or people congregating.
- The owner of the home at 3920 Meyer is in support of placing the stop where it was.

## ALTERNATIVE SOLUTIONS

Alternative 1: Siting the bus stop in the previous location, at 3920 Meyer.

- 3920 Meyer remains in the same blockface.
- The homeowner is in support of this location.
- This avoids any conflict with the historic Frank Lloyd Wright property and the many visitors.
- This location is physically at the side of a home rather than at a front door. Previous Toepfer bus stops have all been sited in this way and were historically and currently planned to NOT be directly in front of anyone's home.
- There are no driveways near this location on either side of Toepfer.
- This would save cost since an MG&E wire support would need to be constructed to accommodate a bus stop at the proposed 449 location.
- This location, on the north side of an intersection, is safer related to vehicular and pedestrian traffic.
- This location is not that distant from the proposed location.
- NOTE: We are aware that this location does not specifically meet the distance guidelines described in the TDP but it is not far outside the range.  
*An exception could be made in this case.*

Alternative 2: Site only one eastside stop between Mineral Point and Tokay at 3918 St. Clair

- This would be consistent with the goals of the TDP in condensing bus stops.
- This historically was a stop.
- Ridership on this corridor is historically low.
- The stop at 527 Toepfer (in same blockface with 3918 St. Clair) was incorrectly placed and has to be moved anyway.
- Note: We are aware that this alternative goes outside the distance guidelines.  
*An exception could be made in this case.*

Alternative 3: Site only one eastside stop between Mineral Point and Tokay at 3920 Meyer

- This would be consistent with the goals of the TDP by condensing bus stops.
- This historically was a bus stop.
- Ridership on this corridor is historically low.
- Note: We are aware that this alternative goes outside the distance guidelines.  
*An exception could be made in this case.*