

City of Madison Plan Commission
July 24, 2006

Item 15? First United Methodist Church addition

I am Mary Bean, 404 Tompkins Drive, Madison, a member of First United Methodist Church and among other things, a volunteer at the Narthex Information Desk on Sunday mornings about once a month.

It is my observation that the Meriter Retirement Center bus which brings members to the 9:30 service, is often handicapped by cars parked directly in front of the church in parking places on Wisconsin Avenue which the church has permission to hood on Sunday mornings – if the spaces are empty when the staff arrives on Sunday morning. Wisconsin Avenue is a busy street on Sunday mornings especially due to both Bethel Lutheran and First UMC holding multiple services.

We also have at least three regularly attending members who ride wheel chairs and arrive at that same entrance, to the service of their choice (8:15, 9:30 or 11:00) encountering the same problems before and after services.

The proposed project will alleviate that inconvenience (& danger) by having the special transportation buses turn off the street into the new parking lot off Dayton Street and drive to a canopied entrance to unload passengers. There are others who travel in private cars and will be aided by the new configuration.

It is my habit to use Madison Metro to travel from home to FUMC for Sunday services and other meetings as often as I can. I am familiar with the #5 bus stopping at the N. Pinckney and E. Mifflin corner of the Square to transfer passengers and make up time. It is my observation that on Sunday mornings, seldom are there more than two buses at that corner at a time. The #2 bus leaves almost as soon as the #5 arrives, followed by the #3. Of the 20 routes listed as using that stop, only seven routes operate on weekends and of those seven, no more than three routes have overlapping times.

Thus, when the buses are using Dayton Street on the outer ring (as is often the case on summer weekends), there is need for only 2 or 3 parking spaces for buses making transfers or making up time. During the weekdays when more routes are in operation, the outer ring is seldom used, but even so, it appears to me that there are spaces for 4 or 5 buses using the whole block.

There will be little, if any, conflict with people turning into the FUMC parking area or alleyway. Many meetings start at 7 p.m. and Chancel Choir rehearsals start at 7:30 p.m. Most peak hour routes leave the Square area before 6 p.m. Again this leaves the need for Metro buses spaces at only 2 or 3 at a time.

I regularly attend a small meeting at FUMC on Monday evenings. I look forward to using the new parking area off Dayton Street and new front door.

I support the rebuilding project as proposed.
Thank you for your attention.