

FORWARDED TO TPC
7/12/16

TPC 07.13.16
ITEM 6.1.

Benishek Clark, Anne

From: Aaron Berry [abkubb@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, July 12, 2016 12:13 AM
To: Kamp, Charles; Sobota, Timothy; Beck, Drew; Benishek Clark, Anne
Cc: Rummel, Marsha; mnaboard@marquette-neighborhood.org
Subject: Metro buses on Willy Street: Thank you!

PLEASE SHARE THIS MESSAGE WITH TPC.

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Dear Metro staff and TPC Members,

First, we wanted to thank Metro for relocating the buses to Willy Street instead of East Washington during the Jenifer Street reconstruction. We greatly appreciate that staff clearly listened to the overwhelming majority of Marquette neighbors this Spring who conveyed the message that for many reasons, the pros outweighed the cons to do so. Thank you to the Commission and Common Council as well who ultimately agreed with staff's revised recommendation to utilize Willy Street instead.

We're both almost daily bus riders when not biking to work or around town. We've not found the buses to be any slower on Willy Street. If anything, they seem like they may be faster than Jenifer St. We take no issue with the loss of a stop at S. Few St. with the buses on Willy Street. (We had opposed the S. Few St. stop removal when proposed on Jenifer St.) Using either stop before or after S. Few St. works fine. In fact, we've enjoyed seeing the buses on Willy St. and don't even mind hearing them (too much) from our home a 1/2 block off of Willy St. It's worth it!

Second, we were pleased to see Alder Rummel's request for Metro's to review the Willy Street pilot and seek user and neighborhood input on permanent relocation of Jenifer Street bus routes to Williamson Street to be introduced at TPC on 7.13.16. We think that a longer test period of at least one year or an indefinite time period would be a better gauge of bus routes on Willy St. rather than just a few months. A longer test period would help determine impacts of Buses on Willy in the winter season and not just the orange barrel season.

Personally, we are sold on Buses on Willy. After just over one month, **we'd like to express our support for the permanent relocation of the buses to Willy Street.** Having the buses go all the way down Willy Street makes good sense for the temporary relocation during construction AND we suspect that staff will be able to conclude that it makes good sense for a permanent relocation. We look forward to and thank staff in advance for embarking on a public input and data review process over the coming months to make this important decision.

Sincerely,

Aaron Berry & Julie Spears  
307 S. Few St.

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Benishek Clark, Anne

**Subject:** FW: Support for Agenda Item #G. 1., Legistar 43630, Williamson-Jenifer Route Study

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**From:** Scott Thornton [mailto:sbthornton@gmail.com]

**Sent:** Wednesday, July 13, 2016 1:06 PM

**To:** ann.kovich@bmo.com; Ahrens, David; dtolmie@charter.net; Gary Poulson; katedesmondllloyd@gmail.com; Ken Golden; Zellers, Ledell; mbergamini@wisc.edu; Kemble, Rebecca; wayne@chsra.wisc.edu; Kamp, Charles; Rummel, Marsha

**Subject:** Support for Agenda Item #G. 1., Legistar 43630, Williamson-Jenifer Route Study

Commissioners, Mr. Kamp and Alder Rummel -

I'm writing in support of Alder Rummel's request for a study of permanently relocating bus routes to Williamson Street.

Please consider the following points:

### **Business**

Keeping the buses on Williamson actually adds additional street parking in the neighborhood. It eliminates need for alternate side parking on Jenifer Street and reduces the number of bus stops to signaled intersections.

Williamson also provides exposure, i.e. free advertising, to businesses. You have a captive audience of people that will see the businesses along Williamson Street and now know that they can take the bus to those destinations.

### **Destination Transit**

Transit through the neighborhood is very focused on the commuter. Not just from the neighborhood, but those that are passing through. This is very evident with City of Madison and UW staff parking in our neighborhood to take the bus a shorter distance to work.

Bus routes on Williamson would encourage bus transit for purposes other than commuting. Not only to business destinations along the route, but also to events at Central Park; Yum Yum Fest, Africa Fest, Fete de Marquette, Central Park Sessions etc. Central Park is right there and visible from Williamson. It is not visible from Jenifer.

### **Housing and Density**

The neighborhood is maturing into a more urban environment. Housing development is occurring in the Williamson Street to East Washington Corridor. Dense housing is primarily on the North side of Williamson. I can already observe that the majority of riders that I see boarding on Jenifer are coming from the Williamson Street Corridor.

The Williamson bus routes keep the buses closer to those who are riding on a regular basis.

### **Environment**

Winters in Madison can not only be harsh to residents, it is also puts a great strain on our lakes given the geography. Sand and salt from our streets goes directly into the lakes.

There are two parallel salt routes just a block apart in the Marquette Neighborhood. Both Williamson and Jenifer are salted more heavily than the other streets. Keeping the buses on Williamson would significantly reduce salt use in the neighborhood and be beneficial to the lakes.

### **Safety**

Jenifer Street has become a preferred route for bicycle commuters in our neighborhood. Currently bicycles, cars and buses are competing for space on a street that is becoming narrower with reconstruction. There would be opportunities for traffic calming to enhance bicycle and pedestrian safety if buses were maintained on Williamson. Jenifer could become a "Bike Boulevard".

### **Additional Benefits**

In addition to the benefits of removing a salt route and increasing street parking, buses would have an easier time traveling the corridor in the winter. They have a very difficult time on Jenifer during inclement weather with stops on every corner and a steady incline travelling west. I have had several buses over the years nearly take out my picket fence and have knocked off the fire hydrant because they could not pull away from the stop. This would not happen on Williamson which is more level and would have fewer stops.

Sincerely,

Scott B. Thornton

1104 Jenifer Street

Madison, WI 53703