

From: [B.E. Smith](#)
To: [Transportation Commission](#)
Subject: Comments on Madison Metro Bus Redesign
Date: Wednesday, November 9, 2022 6:09:36 PM

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Greetings,

Here are my comments for the public hearing tonight on the Madison Metro Bus Redesign.

1.

Eliminating stops and service on Sherman Ave. by Tenney Park (except for one peak route) is unfortunate. A new housing development with about 500 new households was just proposed for this location (across the street from Tenney Park), right where bus service is being cut. Increased bus service on E. Washington does not make up for this loss. Similarly, there are other examples of loss of service in this redesign. It is not fair that no new funding is going into the bus route redesign but the airport (a luxury service) is getting a lot more public funds.

2.

I disagree with the removal of bus stops (and bus service) on the Capitol Square. This is the heart of our city. It should be served at least as well by buses in the future as in the past. I do not agree that the redesign with one or two routes through the Square via E. Wash./W. Wash. are sufficient. I do not want to lose the current options for bus service in the very center of town. I do not feel it is necessary to "trade off" this service for the simplified BRT routes. Having both would be acceptable.

3.

I would like the redesign process to be postponed. Testing some of the theories of the redesign would be advisable, in advance of a wholesale change in all the routes. When the redesign is implemented it will be a shock for long time riders. We need funding and time to test how riders respond to the theories of the redesign. I am worried about the current riders who have proven loyal to the system who will be punished by having to walk four blocks further to catch a bus in each direction (for example). Let us not discourage actual present-day bus riders in pursuit of future riders who may not materialize.

4.

Multi model connections are insufficient on the redesign. For example, while waiting to catch a Van Galder bus on Lake St., staff at UW Gordon Commons told me I could not warm up inside on a freezing cold day. However, using Madison Metro bus on a Sunday to get from my east side home to the Van Galder stop, I had to arrive almost an hour early to be in time for the Van Galder bus to Chicago. I was forced to wait outside in the bitter cold almost an hour. Also, I have had difficulty getting reliable taxi service from this location (when I needed to take a taxi on holidays or late nights) when

taking Madison Metro was not a good option. Uber and Lyft have cannibalized the business of the taxi companies that give round the clock service, so even pre arranged taxi rides do not always pan out due to a very small taxi fleet.

Barbara Smith
456 N. Few St.
Madison WI 53703