

From: [Jonathan Mertzig](#)
To: [Schroeder, Ann](#)
Subject: Comment for 6/15 TPPB agenda
Date: Saturday, June 13, 2020 10:02:29 PM

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Hello-- I would like to submit the following comment in regard to agenda item 6 (Using Metro to Transport Police and National Guard) for the 6/15/2020 meeting of the Transportation Policy and Planning Board. Thank you!

Dear members of the Transportation Policy and Planning Board,

I'm writing to express my extreme concern and disappointment regarding recent usage of Madison Metro buses in law enforcement activities.

This co-option of civilian infrastructure and investments into a militarized police force is a hugely worrisome development contrary to the values this city government claims to support.

It subjects Metro staff and equipment to potential harm, and has the possibility of negatively impacting the quality of service for riders. Buses damaged in the course of police actions are buses that will require repair, taking them out of service and requiring funds that would be better spent on improving service.

Making Metro a de facto arm of law enforcement also potentially puts safety of riders at unnecessary risk if aggressive protest actions start targeting Metro, perhaps quite fairly, as part of the problem of police violence and repression.

This is all on top of the sad irony of a service we associate with "social justice" in city government being used to move around police, who are seen as oppressors for many of our people that transit is supposed to help.

I demand an immediate end of Metro Transit participation in police actions.

Sincerely,
Jonathan Mertzig