

**From:** [Jon Becker](#)  
**To:** [Transportation Commission](#)  
**Subject:** Madison Metro Route Redesign : Equity Review  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 9, 2022 4:46:37 PM

---

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

Hello Transportation Commission Members,

I support the call of local equity advocates for a delay in your decision regarding the equity impacts of the Metro route redesign. Many of their points are well-taken.

Moreover, a revised reroute equity analysis should reconsider the ultimate factor in equity: a fare free system, funded adequately to allow any resident of the Metro service area to meet Basic Minimum Transportation needs as well as access to municipal parks, without the need to own a car.

Metro staff's study of fare options, dismissed the fare free or zero fare approach. However, staff' analysis was deficient.

For example, there was no survey of riders or operators, as had been requested by the community; Metro staff has only recently been advertising to hire a survey expert. Fare free transit enhances operator recruitment and retention, and produces very large ridership increases, so the survey must be crafted to consider future employees and riders, in addition to existing users and those who have stopped riding due to the pandemic.

For another example, the fare options study gave no consideration to enforcement costs, as well as often associated legal costs (from lawsuits due to bias by LEOs, security staff, etc.). The study also didn't take into account the potential for those who consider public transit to be a basic social good to end-run fare collection (see <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Planka.nu>).

As a reviewer for the pre-final version of the Transportation Resources Boar's latest publication on fare free transit, I believe there are other deficiencies in the Metro staff study of fare options that need to be remedied, before it can inform a revised equity analysis of the propose Route Redesign.

For the above reasons,, it would be worthwhile to delay your decision, and ask for staff for work products.

Thank you for your consideration of these concerns.

Best, Jon

**Jon Becker**  
POB 8574, Madison, WI 53708