

SUBMITTED FOR
ITEM C. COMMENTS
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The Need to Reorganize Transportation

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Speaking for Madison Area Bus Advocates

Hi. My name is Susan De Vos and I am speaking for the Madison Area Bus Advocates. These comments were being formulated before we knew about the issue of audio ads on buses. That issue only reinforces the need for these comments. I'll be more specific about audio ads later. But now, I want to suggest that a future item for the TPC, is to grapple with how the city's organization could better coordinate various transportation-related functions, costs, and revenue.

Metro faces an estimated loss of \$1.8 million in state aid, and is looking for ways to help shore up that loss. So it is grasping at straws that, unfortunately, would degrade the transit experience even more, and would push even more people to drive instead of ride transit, inadvertently pushing up expensive demand for road expansion and parking. Yet just a month ago, we read news about how Madison was not collecting \$1.6 million in parking fines. So Metro could fill most of its budget gap from parking revenue without having to think of harming bus riders or bus operators, correct? Unfortunately, no. Metro is stuck because it currently has no access to funds ear marked for those other items, even though transit, parking and roads are all interdependent parts of the city budget. That is wrong.

We need to treat the whole transportation system together, and could actually become more efficient and equitable as a result. The UW's Transportation Services deals with parking and all types of transportation modes under one umbrella.. The city could too.

Currently, the City has a team of agency heads who work on transportation and public works issues together, at least in theory. Is what they do sufficient? No. If it were, someone would have had responsibility for keeping an intercity terminal downtown. If it were, public works and transportation would not be linked. If it were, a transportation planner would be involved. If it were, there would be sharing of funds and projects. **A future item for the TPC is to grapple with how the city's organization could better coordinate various transportation-related functions, costs, and revenue.**