

SMC Support Letter for Transit Network Redesign

We, the members of the Sustainable Madison Committee, a committee that takes a leadership role in the promotion of sustainability for the City of Madison, the Madison community, and the region, express our support regarding the Transit Network Redesign drafted by the Transportation Policy and Planning Board.

The primary stated goal from the Transit Network Redesign is to increase access to the City's public transit. By focusing on increasing the frequencies of bus routes, making routes longer, and by eliminating transfer points, the City's transit system will be simpler and easier to use, resulting in increased ridership. We believe this will reduce the total Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) in the Madison community, particularly from single occupancy vehicles.

In 2017, the Sustainable Madison Committee helped craft legislation passed by Madison's Common Council committing our city to 100% renewable energy and net zero carbon emissions. Transportation has become one of our community's largest sources of greenhouse gas emissions, and by reducing VMT in our community, we can mitigate the effects of climate change, reduce air pollution, and bring our city closer to its goal of net zero emissions.

Furthermore, the Sustainable Madison Committee supports the Transportation Policy and Planning Board's work to reduce the commute times and frequency of transfers, as well as increase access, by our city's BIPOC residents, who have historically been underserved by the Metro system. The Sustainable Madison Committee encourages the Transportation Policy and Planning Board to continue its work to create more equity within our public transit system.

As city residents, we take seriously the reality of our climate crisis and the health impacts of air pollution and emissions from transportation. The Sustainable Madison Committee fully supports the Transit Network Redesign and urges the Madison Common Council to adopt this plan.