

From: [Don Golembiewski](#)
To: [Board of Public Works](#); [Beck, Drew](#); [Beck, Drew](#); [Martin, Arvina](#)
Subject: Location of a new bus stop
Date: Monday, October 5, 2020 2:23:22 PM
Attachments: [suggested bus stops.docx](#)

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

October 4, 2020

To: boardofpublicworks@cityofmadison.com

From: Don Golembiewski

Subject: Location of a new bus stop

I am writing to convey my serious concerns over the proposed placement of new bus stop pads on reconstructed Toepfer Ave. My wife and I live at 449 Toepfer Ave. The "Fact and Details Sheet: Toepfer Avenue, Holly Avenue, Euclid Ave, an Assessment District - 2019" lists the bus stops by home address after construction of Toepfer Ave. is completed. Our address was not listed as a bus stop site.

If an updated "Fact and Details Sheet" with bus stop locations has been produced, please provide me with it at your earliest convenience as I have not received one. Again, I am at 449 Toepfer Ave.

On Wednesday, September 30, "Reed" from the city engineers' office, hand delivered a letter dated September 30, 2020 from R. Drew Beck, Metro Transit Planning Manager stating that a new bus stop pad would be constructed in front of our property on our side of the street. This is not according to the approved plan.

This is unacceptable for a number of reasons.

1. We did not have an opportunity to express our opinions on this last-minute change of an approved plan to an abrupt and last-minute alteration. We are now aware of the Board of Public Works Zoom meeting on October 7. I am registered to attend and request that I and my wife are allowed to express our concerns verbally and we be taken seriously.

2. We question the need for changes to the past locations of bus stops. What is the rationale for moving them? Why can't they remain in place as they have been?

3. I question whether anyone conducted an actual, on-site assessment of possible bus stop locations. For other nearby bus stops, the location is not directly in front of the front entrance and porch of residences. The new proposal places the bus stop close to, and directly in front of our living room windows, front door and our front porch which we use for safe distance socializing.

Our house is located very close to the street and our front porch is only about 19 feet

from the proposed bus pad site as well. A bus stop so close to our front porch would be totally disruptive to our lives and is unnecessary as other locations are less intrusive.

Past locations were sited either between or on the side of homes away from front entrances or along yards or were placed where no front porch suitable for social gatherings is evident. Other homes are also further from the roadway. No one paid attention to our home or potential use of the front of our property. It seems that a decision was made absent any concern for how a property is configured or is sited near the street or is oriented for livability.

4. Another new bus pad is also proposed directly in front of our home but on the other side of the street for west bound buses. So, we are being hit with not one, but two new and very intrusive, side-by-side bus stops directly in front of our home's front porch and our living room. I also question the safety of this arrangement as buses can be stuck in snow or otherwise mechanically disabled and to have two buses potentially blocking traffic is an unnecessary safety hazard as Toepfer Ave. is often quite busy. Additionally, people with mobility limitations can extend the bus stopping times leading to a greater possibility for the road to be blocked on both sides of the street. People with mobility limitations deserve to be safe and be given the courtesy of a composed and relaxed exit/entrance to the bus. Toepfer Ave. gets a lot of commuters, truck traffic and children walking on Birch as they cross Toepfer to and from two nearby schools. Having this situation (a stopped bus blocking the view of drivers) presents a seriously hazardous situation to children on foot. What will you do to make this situation safe for pedestrians especially school kids?

Also, my search shows that a typical city bus is 8 to 9 feet wide. If two buses were stuck side-by-side and were forced closer to the center of the road due to snow conditions, would that leave enough clearance for an emergency vehicle to pass? I also found that "Fire apparatus access roads shall have an unobstructed width of not less than 20 feet." With even one snowbound bus in the roadway that will be close to this limit. But if two buses side-by-side were stuck, emergency vehicles might need to be detoured. I don't wish that delay on anyone.

I suggest that the bus stops be staggered and not be located on opposite sides of the road, be placed where they do not cause safety issues and do not intrude on anyone's front entrance or living room views. Property values matter. What is the rationale for moving the bus stops from their current/previous locations?

During a phone conversation with Mr. Beck from Metro Transit, I invited him to join me to conduct a personal walking site assessment of Toepfer Ave. to explore better options. My wife and I walked the street a few days ago and it only took a few minutes to assess non-intrusive potential bus stops which I list below.

Thank you for looking into this situation.

I can be reached at 608-445-0096 or by email – don.golembiewski@gmail.com

Don Golembiewski

449 Toepfer Ave.
Madison, WI 53711

Less-disruptive potential bus stops

Eastbound travelling North from Tokay –

Keep them where they are (or were) prior to street construction. If fewer stops are indicated, eliminate some but don't move any to more intrusive spots negatively impacting the front spaces of homes and disrupting homeowners' lives.

A new pad has been installed North of Tokay on Toepfer

There is a current bus stop sign North of St. Clair (near 527 Toepfer)

A new pad was installed at 527 Toepfer

A possible site is South of 505 Toepfer

There was a bus stop North of Meyer that is between houses and seems to be sited quite adequately. It is on the side of 3920 Meyer so not directly in front of their home and across the street is the side, not front entrance, of a house.

Another possible site is South of the driveway at 401 Toepfer.

North of the earlier proposed site at 441 Toepfer (Jacobs House) near 437 & 433 Toepfer

Or on the side of 3926 Paunack

On the side of 3921 Paunack

On the side of 3924 Euclid where a 6 & 7 bus stop sign already sits

Westbound travelling South from Mineral Point Rd. along Toepfer Ave. –

4001/4003 Mineral Point Rd. – a new bus stop pad has been set

A current bus stop is between 432 & 424 Toepfer

New bus stop pad installed at 4005 Birch

North of the intersection of Meyer and Toepfer

On the side of 4001 Winnemac

Along the vacant back yard near 446 Toepfer

Don Golembiewski