

From: [Eva Lewandowski](#)
To: [Transportation Commission](#)
Subject: written comment for Item 86770
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Dear Transportation Commission,

Please include this in the public comments for Item 86770, Update on Transit Equity for People With Disabilities, at Wednesday's meeting.

Thank you for continuing to address accessibility issues regarding bus and BRT in Madison. I read through the powerpoint presentation for this topic. I am glad that Metro is finally acknowledging some of the major flaws that are preventing folks from riding BRT. However, I am extremely disappointed not to see any inclusion of the lack of handholds and how this is affecting people.

I am a disabled Madison resident who cannot drive or bike, so the bus is critical for me. I can board a regular bus just fine, but I cannot ride the BRT at all because there is no handle, railing, grab bar, or other handhold to use when boarding. This is a fundamental accessibility feature needed by many people, but every time I have raised this issue with Metro Transit staff I have come up against a complete refusal from staff to even consider this as an issue. They will not even discuss potential solutions or commit to looking into the issue. I have been told that because a handhold is not federally required, they won't look into one, end of story.

Because of the BRT's lack of accessibility, I have lost independence and the ability to do many of the day-to-day tasks I used to be able to use the bus for. I ask that you and Metro staff remember that neither disabilities nor accessibility features are "one size fits all" and that people like me have been left behind by the switch to BRT. More needs to be done to increase BRT accessibility for those of us who need it most.

Thank you,

Eva Lewandowski

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