



Dear City of Madison Officials:

Thank you for your efforts to design a stronger Madison Metro transit system. The Catholic Multicultural Center (CMC) has been closely following the development of the Madison Metro Redesign process. Many of the guests we serve at the CMC depend on the bus, not because it is more convenient for them, but because it is the only option they have. These guests include immigrants without access to a driver's license, homeless individuals, and low-income people who cannot afford to drive.

Of those who use the bus, many of our guests are concerned about how the new draft plan will affect them and their fellow bus users. People who rely on bus service for meeting their daily living needs will experience the absence of bus coverage throughout South Madison as a life-changing burden. Under the currently proposed plan, our neighbors in Bram's Addition, Capital View, and Bay Creek will lose bus service one or two blocks away from their doorstep and instead will need to walk to Park Street to catch the bus. For our immediate neighbors at CMC, this walk requires going uphill several blocks and then walking an extra block to get around the Beld St buildings and to the stop on Park Street.

CMC is pleased to see the consideration of adding in a Route O to fill in some of the coverage our guests and neighbors would lose under the current draft plan. We would like to see a Route O that provides transportation access to key sites where there are elderly and low-income people depending on the bus, namely: Bram's Addition neighborhood, Romnes apartments, Capital View neighborhood, and St. Vincent de Paul food pantry. We have also heard from community members that bus access to Vilas Zoo and Park would be beneficial. None of the proposed amendments achieve all of this. However, Amendment 4E proposed and endorsed by the South Madison Planning Council would add in much-needed service to several key South Madison areas that would be disproportionately burdened if they were to lose easy access to bus service. CMC fully endorses the proposed route O laid out in Amendment 4E.

We strongly urge all involved parties – the City of Madison, Madison Metro, Urban Assets, and City Council – to use their resources to make Amendment 4E a reality, obtaining additional resources as necessary. Instead of settling for a plan that improves some service to a few privileged areas while leaving large geographic areas behind, what if we worked right now to achieve a transit system that provided access, equity, and frequency? On behalf of the CMC and the people we serve, we thank you for your consideration on this important matter.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steve Maurice".

Steve Maurice
Associate Director
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