

TPPB Public Comment 1/31/22 Agenda Item #4 File #67564

Hello,

I am writing in response to agenda item 67564. Thank you for all the work the City and its consultants have put into the Madison Metro re-design. I appreciate efforts to improve public transportation, especially the Bus Rapid Transit system. However, I feel that much is still lacking.

The proposed plan appears to leave large swaths of the City unserved by Madison Metro. We cannot sacrifice the accessibility to the bus system for frequency. People need and want buses that are both frequent and nearby. They also want to see the bus system to connect to other cities in the Madison Metro area. These comments are not just my own; I speak not only on behalf of myself but for the people I help serve who greatly depend on the bus as their primary transportation, who have shared such comments with us.

Now is the prime time to build a strong bus system so that bussing becomes a viable alternative to traveling in a personal vehicle. For the transportation equity of our lower-income and less mobile neighbors, for our dangerously changing climate, and the well-being of the low-income people and people of color most impacted by climate change and vehicle pollution, the City needs to do more thoughtful planning to discourage vehicle use, promote smart growth, and move our City away from vehicle transportation and to bussing. This plan falls short of this mark.

The redesign consultants stated that service can be frequent or dense (nearby), but not both. But why does it have to be this way? If there is not enough funding for both frequent and nearby transportation to serve residents of the entire Madison Metro area, please take this chance to see what resources you can draw from to re-direct to this project so that it is done right. One suggestion is to link this project to community demands to reduce funding to policing and re-direct these resources to needed services in the community. Another is to charge much higher taxes to developers and homeowners who capitalize on urban sprawl and hinder the development of a more dense public transportation system.

Thank you for your consideration and for all your hard work on this matter,

Laura Green