

TPPB Public Comment – Email received 3-3-22

Hello! My name is Chris Wagner, and I was the librarian at Goodman South Madison Library for 22 years and worked at the UW Odyssey Project for four years. I have lived in my current home in Bay Creek from 2012-present and before that, I lived in another home in Bay Creek from 2000-2003.

I am writing to add my voice to those who are opposed to the reduction/elimination of Madison Metro's Route 13 and 4. As someone who has lived and worked in South Madison for many years, I have seen how important public transportation is for both people who live in the area and those who need to get to important destinations in the area such as the Goodman South Madison Library, the Goodman Madison College Campus, the Urban League, the Dane County/Madison Health Department, the UW Odyssey Project and many other services and businesses in the area.

After my mother's death and my significant other moved out of town, I found I could no longer make the mortgage payments on my house in Bay Creek so I went back to work at age 68. I am fortunate to have found a good job, but I am entirely dependent on Madison Metro to get there as I do not drive. Although I personally won't be terribly hurt by this change, there are many, many people like me in South Madison (Bay Creek included) who will be hurt. I am especially concerned for those on the south end of Route 4 and those who live in or near the Romnes Apartments.

I find it both sad and ironic that South Madison is going through a renewal with the addition of the Goodman Madison College Campus and the upcoming Center for Black Excellence and Culture and Black Business Hub and yet is about to be cut off from the rest of the City by these bus route reductions. Madison government talks a good talk about being a livable city and a place where people don't need a car to get around, but cutting off South Madison from the rest of the City like this flies in the face of their words. Likewise, funding and building the current developments in South Madison without proper transportation to the area cuts the rest of the City off from South Madison. I've always believed that "South Madison" is not just a direction but a cultural center. It would be injudicious to turn it into an inaccessible island!

I hope you will take my comments seriously and consider alternatives to keep the residents of South Madison connected with the rest of the City and vice versa.

Sincerely,

Christina (Chris) Wagner

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