From: Jim Denham
To: Transportation Commission
Subject: Feedback on Proposed Transit Redesign
Date: Wednesday, November 9, 2022 3:56:57 PM

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Hello:

I am a Fitchburg resident who is totally blind. My office is located on the Isthmus in Madison. I regularly rely on metro fixed route 49 to get to and from my job. I have recently reviewed the proposed Metro redesign plan and have several concerns related to the proposed changes in Fitchburg.

In 2018, my wife and I were looking to purchase a home in the Madison area. As I am blind and cannot drive, one of our major considerations for the location of our new home was purchasing a property which was close to a bus stop. We found several terrific properties, but none of these options met this criteria. We ultimately decided to purchase a condo on Prairie Edge Way, which is close to the Route 49 stop at Mickelson and Walkway. After reviewing the proposed plan for redesign, I was alarmed to learn this bus stop would be closing. After doing some additional research and speaking to a Metro Customer Service Representative, I was further distraught to realize the new plan would require me to cross several uncontrolled intersections to reach the closest bus stop, which would be in the parking lot of a local shopping center. Navigating to this proposed location would be difficult at best under ideal weather conditions. As we all know, winter in Wisconsin can present less than ideal weather. In these situations, it would be impossible for me to safely cross these intersections and locate this bus stop. One of the reasons I rely on Metro fixed route service is that it is reliable and predictable. As an individual who is blind, I do qualify for paratransit services. However, from past experiences, this method of transportation is unreliable. I cannot depend on this option to get to my job in a timely fashion. I also would like to be able to utilize the same transit services as my sighted colleagues to get to and from work. Not only is this a cost savings to taxpayers, it is also an equitable solution which allows me to use the same services as my sighted peers. The closure of the route 49 bus stop at Mickelson Parkway and Walkway would present an extreme hardship and would severely limit my ability to independently travel to and from my place of employment.

In addition to my personal safety concerns, , I strongly oppose the closure of bus stops along Mickelson Parkway for reasons which would impact all members of the general public. This road borders McKee Farms Park. Individuals from around the area frequently use fixed route transit services to access this location. McKee Farms Park hosts a wide variety of recreational and leisure activities throughout the year. In addition, it is an ideal setting for residents to hike or just stop and enjoy some open space. Closing the stops along Mickelson

Parkway would make it much more difficult, if not impossible for some individuals to easily reach this park and partake in the numerous activities available in this area.

I strongly oppose the closure of Metro bus stops along Mickelson Parkway. I would urge Madison Metro and the city of Fitchburg to reconsider this decision and take in to account how this change would impact the individuals who rely on these stops for personal and professional reasons.

If you have any questions or need additional information about my concerns in this matter, please feel free to contact me using the information listed below.

Thank you.

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