

From: [Laura Bickel](#)
To: [Transportation Commission](#)
Subject: Bus system
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Hello,

I was registered to speak for your meeting on wed 9/27 but i was in the ER with pnemonia. I still would like to speak to you about the changes that have been made to the buses.

My bus stop is the one at University Ave and Norman Way. Before the changes were made in June, I had three different options of buses i could take to go to my job downtown Madison. After the June changes I now only have one option of bus I can take which has made things much more difficult.

When one of your committee people was on the bus after the changes were made asking people what they thought, I explained to him how difficult it is now getting from my stop to anywhere in the city. The man said that the changes were made to my area because I am so close to Middleton and Middleton is to have their own Bus system.

I don't know if you guys understand how many students we have at UW that live in Middleton and my area. Now that there is only one bus that we can take anywhere it has become a nightmare for your loyal riders. The bus is so insanely crowded now (especially in the morning and afternoon rush hours) that we are packed tighter than sardines in a can. Nobody is happy with this.

In reading your agenda, for today's meeting that I was unable to attend to all of the routes that you guys spoke of to change we're not mine at all. I ride Bus F. This is the one that goes partway into Middleton. It is now the only route that goes in the area. It makes it very difficult for residents who need the bus to get around to work to school to visit family.

I myself have spoken too many people in the months since how they feel about the new system that you guys have created. A general consensus is that we feel like your committee didn't even take us into consideration despite the fact that you have cut our motive of transportation by a third. When these changes were being advertised and promoted, it was supposed to be all about making things easier for riders and giving more direct routes to help people get around the city better. However it actually is doing the opposite for many. The only people who are benefiting from this are the people downtown, the little people ard being forgotten about.

Many of the riders that I spoke with have the same views as me about the frequency of the route. Its understandable that since we are on the edge of town that we may only have one bus choice that comes our way. Due to this we are requesting that Bus F be given more frequency coming more often. Instead of Bus F coming every 30 minutes, have it come every 15 minutes. This would cut down on the crowding and the many times the bus driver has had to tell riders "sorry i can't let you on, im full". We also need Bus F to do its full route (like it does on weekdays) on the weekends again. Cutting that has made it so i can't go anywhere on Saturdays and Sundays.

Cold/flu season is now here and with new strains of covid popping up having more frequent and less crowded buses would help these not spread.

One final note is a question i have for you. Why did you remove alot of stops on state st, the square, and the one block off the square stops that are used during events? I needed to switch buses on the Square the other day and I ended up missing the bus I was trying to ride because I went to a main stop on the Square and another at the top of state street but they are both now gone.

I would like to conclude that I feel like you guys had good intentions in changing the system. I can see how removing the transfer points and adding some new routes benefit some people. The general consensus is that the problem is you have forgotten about the little people who don't live downtown. We feel like the ones who live on the far east side, or the far west side were not even taken into account when these changes were being made. Please make it so the bus F comes more often and make it do its full route on weekends again.

Thank you for "listening"

-Laura Bickel