

8/9/16 FORWARDED
TO TPC MEMBERS/STAFF

Benishek Clark, Anne

Subject: FW: Study Being Done About Making Willy Street a Transit Thoroughfare.

From: Stouder, Heather
Sent: Monday, August 08, 2016 12:52 PM
To: Kamp, Charles; Benishek Clark, Anne
Cc: Rummel, Marsha
Subject: FW: Study Being Done About Making Willy Street a Transit Thoroughfare.

FYI

From: Scanlon, Amy
Sent: Monday, August 08, 2016 8:36 AM
To: Stouder, Heather
Subject: FW: Study Being Done About Making Willy Street a Transit Thoroughfare.

From: Michael Gustavson [<mailto:gustavson.michael@gmail.com>]
Sent: Saturday, August 06, 2016 8:29 AM
To: Vaughn, Jessica; Scanlon, Amy
Subject: Study Being Done About Making Willy Street a Transit Thoroughfare.

Jessica and Amy,

I have recently learned that there is a study being done by Metro about the feasibility of changing the Jenifer Street Bus routes to Willy Street permanently. This study was requested by Alderwoman Marsha Rummel, based on talks with a Jenifer Street organization that was formed due to the current changes occurring on Jenifer Street. I feel as though this Jenifer Street based organization has an unusual amount of sway on this attempt to move buses away from their properties. I feel this way because they were previously organized and united around the recent construction on Jenifer Street, and they can leveraged that organizational power into a push to move the buses off of their street and onto someone elses street. Meanwhile the rest of the public does not know anything about this change they are trying to push through. Marsha wants this bus route change to happen as well, and I'm not sure why.

I'm of the opinion, that having transit on Jenifer Street, is the primary reason Willy Street has the character that it has had for so many years. The buses have temporarily been moved to Willy during the construction on Jenifer Street. This "temporary" change has caused a removal of street parking on Willy Street in a dramatic way. This has made Willy a 2 lane street. Thus traffic moves faster, making the area less pleasant for walking. The experience of a bus racing by 4 feet away from pedestrians on a two lane road is far different than cars driving by at a slower pace with street side parking acting as a buffer from the traffic. If these bus routes change, it is going to affect thousands of people, whether they live on Willy Street, have businesses on Willy Street, own property on Willy Street, or simply like to visit Willy Street on the weekends.

The reason I am contacting you about this, is that I'm concerned this decision will be made without consultation with any planners. I'm worried that the decision by Metro engineers will be based mostly (if not entirely) on "efficiency of transportation," rather than on maintaining the civic qualities

of Willy Street. Engineers simply don't think in the same way as planners do, and I think this decision desperately needs to be made by planners, not Metro Engineers.

I'm obviously against this study and these potential changes. Many people are starting to become very disturbed about this. It's such a shame that the idea of the study was even brought up. There is a slow tide of fear building along Willy Street about these potential changes as people learn about what is happening. I have not heard from a single person who has a connection to Willy Street who is in favor of this study, or it's potential effects. The transit route has been on Jenifer Street for over 100 years (since trolley car days). People have planned their lives, investments, businesses, and on and on around this important historic characteristic of East Side city fabric. It's one of those crucial things, that people don't think much about, but has a fundamental effect on the historic nature of the city.

Sorry for the long email. I feel like I had to write the above, to ask you this question: are the planners being kept out of the loop on this? How can planners and historians be more involved with this. I'm terrified that these decisions will be made by Engineers, or others who do not think deeply and regularly about these types of things.

Thank you for taking the time to read this.

Sincerely,
Michael Gustavson

"Too much communication is always better than too little."

Michael Gustavson Architecture

(612) 242-6537

Madison, WI

Subject: FW: Jenifer/Willy Street Bus Route

From: Stouder, Heather
Sent: Monday, August 08, 2016 12:52 PM
To: Kamp, Charles; Benishek Clark, Anne
Cc: Rummel, Marsha
Subject: FW: Jenifer/Willy Street Bus Route

FYI

From: Sarah J. Shook [<mailto:shook.sarahj@gmail.com>]
Sent: Sunday, August 07, 2016 7:41 PM
To: Stouder, Heather
Subject: Jenifer/Willy Street Bus Route

Hello Heather,

I live on the 900 block of Jenifer Street and would like to comment on the bus route change.

The new route on Williamson Street makes my street, Jenifer, much quieter. From inside the house I cannot hear the cars individually as they pass on the street but can always hear the rattle of a bus as it drives past the house every five minutes.

As a biker I also think this new bus route is much better because it makes Jenifer street safer for bike commute. The buses are hard to see around and force bikes into the middle of the street to navigate around them, which is dangerous, especially at intersections. Williamson Street is too chaotic for me and many others to bike during rush hour, so the addition of the buses does not affect bikers as much.

If the bus route is under consideration to be moved from Jenifer Street to Williamson Street permanently, I would much prefer the bus route stay on Williamson Street after the construction is completed.

Sincerely,
Sarah Shook