

From: [McGuigan, Patrick](#)
To: [McGuigan, Patrick](#)
Subject: FW: Rutledge/Thornton Bus Stop
Date: Wednesday, April 03, 2019 8:07:01 AM

From: Amy Miller <ajmille2@uwalumni.com>

Sent: Tuesday, April 02, 2019 5:13 PM

To: Ann Kovich <annelizabethkovich@gmail.com>; bebrown.madison@gmail.com; carldurocher@gmail.com; GaryPoulson@gmail.com; Butler, Pat <callie605@yahoo.com>; Kemble, Rebecca <district18@cityofmadison.com>; King, J Steven <district7@cityofmadison.com>

Cc: Beck, Drew <RBeck@cityofmadison.com>; Kamp, Charles <CKamp@cityofmadison.com>; Rusch, Mick <MRusch@cityofmadison.com>; McGuigan, Patrick <PMcGuigan@cityofmadison.com>

Subject: Rutledge/Thornton Bus Stop

Dear Members of the Transportation Commission:

I am writing to voice my support for restoration of the bus stop at Rutledge and Thornton. Last fall this stop and another on the other side of the Yahara River were eliminated leaving a four block gap plus the River without a stop. That's too great of a gap for commuters using the bus. It was one of the premier stops in Madison: in the morning it offers beautiful sunrises encompassing views of the Yahara River and Lake Monona; the houses nearby provide a wind break; and the canopy of the large boulevard tree provides shelter from rain. The stop at Rogers and Spaight offers none of that; it is exposed to the wind that whips across the open space of Marquette School playground.

I have lived in Madison for more than 30 years and have used the bus system to commute to work throughout this time. I still work and still commute via the 38 bus to work and also use the 3 bus on a monthly basis for medical appointments near the West Transfer Point.

When I first moved to this neighborhood in the 90s, a woman in her eighties lived in the fourplex on our block and used the bus for all of her transportation needs. I often rode the bus with her as she commuted to her volunteer work downtown at the Bethel Thrift Shop and I, to my job. Often there would be other seniors whom she greeted warmly. I know that my former elderly neighbor would not have been able to independently navigate to the stop at Rogers and Spaight had she still lived in the neighborhood.

Now many neighbors are in their 60s and 70s and with many of the health problems that develop as we age, including osteoporosis, which puts a person at higher risk of bone fractures and death. Many, such as myself, continue to work with no plans to retire in the next five years. Eliminating stops such as the stop at the corner of Rutledge and Thornton creates more risk for falls as one traverses the icy sidewalks that we experienced most of the past winter. A higher percentage of seniors are involved in motor vehicle accidents and the ease of using the bus provides a safer means of transportation for the senior and the rest of the community.

I lamented when the 38 express westbound bus via John Nolen was eliminated. It certainly shortened my bus commute to work. Some of my neighbors decided to drive, rather than bus to work at the University and UW Hospital as a result, which I thought was short sighted. I

have also witnessed the elimination of bus options with changes to the 3 bus and elimination of the 10 bus along Rutledge. I understand the desire to improve transit times and to better serve the entire Madison community. However, eliminating the Rutledge/Thornton stop minimally impacts commute times and greatly lessens the ease of bussing. I hope the Commission will consider the needs of our aging neighborhood and see fit to reinstate this stop.

Sincerely,

A rectangular box with a thin black border, containing a small blue square icon with a white question mark inside.

Amy J Miller
Nurse Practitioner