

From: [McGuigan, Patrick](#)
To: [McGuigan, Patrick](#)
Subject: FW: Comments on Intercity Bus Relocation
Date: Thursday, August 15, 2019 7:50:21 AM

From: [Jonathan M. Mertzig](#)
Sent: Wednesday, August 14, 2019 10:11 PM
To: annelizabethkovich@gmail.com; ytao@cityofmadison.com
Subject: Comments on Intercity Bus Relocation

Hello Ann and Yang--I wasn't sure of the procedure to submit comments regarding agenda items for the Transportation Commission, but as you're listed as the primary contacts, I'm hoping you can share this with the members of the Commission at the next meeting. Thanks!

Jonathan Mertzig
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Dear members of the Transportation Commission and city staff,
I am writing in regard to the Draft Short-Term Intercity Bus Access Area report that was featured on the the agenda for the August 8, 2019 meeting of the Transportation Commission (item G.3). Unfortunately, I was not able to submit my comments in time for the meeting, but I see several members of the public have already sent comments about this item. As a frequent intercity bus user, I am in agreement with the points and concerns that were expressed in the letters from Rich Zietko, Robbie Webber, and Harald Kliems.

Too many of the proposed locations do not factor in city-wide accessibility via transit or bike, and proposed placements only seem to consider the needs of dorm-dwelling UW students rather than other city residents or visitors coming from outside Madison. Beyond that, I would like to add a few additional concerns for your consideration.

First, the report draft starts with what may be a partly incorrect premise: that the Memorial Union no longer has a role in selling bus tickets. Unless there has been an unannounced change of policy, it is my understanding that the Union Box Office still sells Van Galder bus tickets for discounted student and member rates, as it is the only point of sale for discount tickets (per the Wisconsin Union Box Office website [<https://union.wisc.edu/visit/wisconsin-union-theater/theater-tickets/>] and the Van Galder Bus FAQ page [<https://www.govangalder.com/Chicago-Airport-Shuttle-Bus-faq>]).

If the intercity bus access area is moved far away from the Union, it could greatly reduce the convenience of purchasing tickets for those who qualify for reduced fares.

Second, the recommendation to move the bus access area to Monroe Street is significantly flawed due to the need to move the stop during Badger football game days.

The proposed alternate access area on the 1300 block of University would still be near significant volumes of game day traffic and crowds, making access to the bus stop challenging. Also, a major problem with the past placement of stops outside the Chazen Museum was the high frequency of temporary relocations away from the normal stop. I once nearly missed a bus due to being caught

unaware of one of these temporary relocations. Riders need a reliable, predictable location to access buses. Visitors should not have to know the football schedule to know where they'll be arriving in Madison.

Of the alternatives presented, only the locations on Lake Street (proposals 11a/b) come close to providing the same level of amenities and accessibility--combined with a predictable location--offered by the current Langdon Street stop. However, without compelling evidence of actual safety issues beyond a mere perception of congestion on Langdon, I see no strong argument to spend city resources on moving the existing stop until we can provide a permanent intercity bus station.

Thanks,

Jonathan Mertzig

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