

From: [Anthony Cunningham](#)
To: [Public Testimony](#)
Subject: RE: Ordinance #230446 (3/8th-cent Sales Tax for Public Mass Transit)
Date: Tuesday, August 1, 2023 9:24:28 PM

Dear Kansas City Transportation, Infrastructure and Operations committee,

My name is Anthony Cunningham, and I am a new resident of the 4th district (having moved away from the 3rd district, where I had lived for the past 4 years). As someone who depends on our city's public bus system, I would like to express my support and my concern for **Ordinance #230446**, which is critical for maintaining funding for our buses. I am deeply concerned that the renewal of the 3/8th-cent sales tax for our public bus system has not been placed on the TIO's agenda, as the deadline for placement on the November 2023 ballot is only 4 weeks away. Moreso, I am dismayed that the ordinance doesn't explicitly state that this funding be used for our bus system, as had been the case prior to the introduction of Mayor Lucas' amended language for this ordinance.

Our bus system provides a crucial public service to many of your constituents, including BIPOC, poor/working class, elderly and those with disabilities (myself included). Our buses provide free access to jobs, health care, education and many wonderful amenities and communities within our beloved city. **In failing to fully maintain funding for this essential service, this committee would have failed its constituents to an alarming degree.** A funding gap for bus operations would leave many vulnerable to job loss, missed medical appointments, and/or economic injustice by further perpetuating car-ownership as the sole reliable means of transportation in our city.

Furthermore, removing funding from buses and re-allocating it towards city-subsidized car fleets or vanity rail projects that benefit tourists and wealthy travelers, as this ordinance in current form allows for, would set the wrong tone for this committee and the broader Council in the eyes of many of your constituents. **Buses are a quicker-to-implement, cheaper, resilient and efficient form of mass transit** that represents our quickest path to reducing car-dependency, and the negative externalities that come with it.

I am hopeful that this committee recognizes the importance of a reliable, frequent and free public bus system, and is willing to champion it. While more must be done, amending and passing this ordinance urgently is foundational for a more resilient, equitable, and livable Kansas City. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

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