From: Engel Van Roekel
To: Public Testimony
Subject: The Bus keeps me EMPLOYED Amend Ordinance #250247
Date: Friday, March 28, 2025 6:50:00 PM

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KCMO Public Testimony,

The bus is my lifeline, without it I wouldn't be able to afford to live. I NEED to use it everyday. Some of the bus lines I take are proposed to be cut, like the 11. Those employed by the KCATA won't be the only ones losing their jobs. I work in the Country Club Plaza as a server and in the Crossroads as a bartender. I need both jobs to afford to live, I don't have the means to get a car. I do my part, I serve many citizens of KC and pay my taxes. I have said goodbye to coworkers when bus lines got cut back in 2024. I have coworkers now that also rely on the buses, especially those that run later at night. If I lose access to my transportation it will have a DRASTIC effect on my livelihood.

The budget also includes attempts to reduce homelessness and traffic fatalities. That will only go so far when buses aren't considered necessary to combat those things. Do you want to see those numbers go up? Cutting buses will mean more incentive for dangerous car traffic so MORE fatalities. More unemployed people, so MORE people on the road to becoming homeless. We know statistically negative socioeconomic factors influence crime, so we could potentially see a rise in crime as well. Well, at least the police got an extra $23 million in the budget. WHAT DO YOU CARE ABOUT KANSAS CITY? Do you care about crime? Homelessness? Traffic fatalities? Then finding more budget options for the KCATA should be a NUMBER ONE TOP PRIORITY. Transportation isn't a privilege when you are a contributing citizen or potential contributing citizen, it is a NECESSITY.

I'd like to continue being a housed, employed citizen, so I urge you to amend the current proposal for bus funding, Ordinance #250247, so that critical improvements can be made to preserve service and universal Zero Fare.

KCATA announced that this proposed ordinance will NOT provide sufficient funding to maintain current levels of bus service. Instead, weekend service will be limited to just 7 routes, frequency will be reduced, and union drivers will be laid off. After your constituents expressed an overwhelming demand for you to save the bus system, you and your colleagues promised the public that this ordinance would prevent service cuts, even if just for six months. You must amend this ordinance to ensure that our buses receive adequate funding.

Working people should not pay the price for the City and KCATA's sloppy negotiations. This is unfair, unjust, and unethical. Do your jobs and fund our buses.

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