From: Fray Patton
To: Public Testimony
Subject: So I can be a part of my community Amend Ordinance #250247
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KCMO Public Testimony,

I am reaching out to 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.

As someone who lives in Midtown, I use the bus lines to socialize with friends, get to doctor's appointments, volunteer in the community, and even get groceries. The lines I use are the Main Max, 47, and 39. However, there are other lines I've tried to use but haven't been able to due to consistency. For example, I used to live right by the 35, which would have taken me directly to work back in 2022. It's supposed to come every 30 minutes, however, if it came it was once an hour. Making it so I would have to walk to work or get a ride from a colleague if they were generous. Another example was that I tried to get to the KC Health department and it took me 2 hours one way using the bus line. For context, I lived 5 miles or a less than 10 minute drive from the KC Health department location. This ordinance would make situations like that increasingly more common or worse for people who just want to live in the KC Metro and don't have access to a car.

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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