

**From:** [Valley.Transit](#)  
**To:** [Ronald C. McDonald](#); [Amy Erickson](#); [Debra Ebben](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Public Comment  
**Date:** Saturday, June 8, 2024 8:40:09 AM

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**From:** Connor Kane <[icehox1991@outlook.com](mailto:icehox1991@outlook.com)>  
**Sent:** Friday, June 7, 2024 6:58 PM  
**To:** Valley.Transit <[Valley.Transit@Appleton.org](mailto:Valley.Transit@Appleton.org)>  
**Subject:** Public Comment

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To whom this may concern,

I am writing in for the public comment for the potential changes to the Valley Transit bus system. I want to tell you a little bit about myself and my history with Valley Transit and Valley Transit 2 The Connector. I have been using the Valley Transit bus system every day for the past six years. I am a legally blind young adult that works in the Fox Valley, and Valley Transit is one of my only forms of transportation. To make changes to the bus run times would have a horrible impact on my way of transportation. I'm worried that if you do implement these changes, then we the disability community will not have reliable transportation for everyday use. Most riders on the bus system are people with disabilities, older adults, as well as individuals that can't drive. To change the bus run times and to force riders to rely on Valley Transit 2 The Connector would be awful. Valley Transit 2 is not reliable. I have used them for the past ten years as my form of transportation when the weather is not favorable to be walking out in the elements. They frequently miss the pickup window and have gotten me to and from work and appointments late.

Furthermore, to implement the new prices that have been discussed are not in favor of people with disabilities as most of us are low income and on a very fixed income. \$6 one way is extremely expensive when I can take Valley Transit for \$1 and get to my destination, then pay an additional \$1 to get back home. This change would make public transportation burdensome, inaccessible, and would remove the only viable option for a large number of current Valley Transit riders.

I understand it is difficult to hire and maintain bus drivers, and it is imperative that the City of Appleton and the Fox Valley focus their efforts on accessible public transportation.

My thoughts are to change the fixed route bus schedule and have them run until 8pm. There are many people who live and work in our community, and even slightly extended schedules could increase ridership in riders who currently work afternoon and evening jobs. I use the Neenah bus system, mainly route 41. If this route could even run until 8pm, I feel as though that would be a huge improvement. Valley Transit is the primary form of transportation for individuals like me who live, work, and want to spend time in the community. For a lot of us, it is our only form of transportation and to take that away or to eliminate some of the bus run times would be detrimental.

Please consider my comments when thinking about changing the schedules.

Thank you,

Valley Transit Rider

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**From:** [Valley.Transit](#)  
**To:** [Debra Ebben](#); [Ronald C. McDonald](#); [Amy Erickson](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Transit Schedule Changes Comment  
**Date:** Monday, June 10, 2024 11:03:39 AM

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**From:** Jake Daub <jakesdaub@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 10, 2024 8:09 AM  
**To:** Valley.Transit <Valley.Transit@Appleton.org>  
**Subject:** Transit Schedule Changes Comment

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Hello,

My name is Jake and I would like to give comment to the proposed changes to the bus schedule. I was unfortunately not able to make it to the meeting.

I believe that changing the scheduling for the buses, even for non-peak hours would be a bad decision that would lead to lower ridership in the valley.

Public transit should be as frequent and convenient as possible to encourage people to take it, and changing the schedule to ride call only for a portion of the day would only discourage people from taking our buses.

Thank you for your time,

Jake

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**From:** [Valley.Transit](#)  
**To:** [Ronald C. McDonald](#); [Amy Erickson](#); [Debra Ebben](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Proposed service modifications  
**Date:** Monday, June 10, 2024 3:13:06 PM

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**From:** Karen Hrdlick <meowart@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 10, 2024 1:11 PM  
**To:** Valley.Transit <Valley.Transit@Appleton.org>  
**Subject:** Proposed service modifications

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Hello,

I would first like to thank Valley Transit and the Fox Cities Transit Commission for decades of safe, reliable public transportation. I want to acknowledge how difficult it has been to maintain staffing and service since the pandemic. I have been concerned about the drivers' well-being working such long hours.

I am of course also concerned about my own well-being. I don't drive. I have to get to work at Walmart on East Calumet from 8am to 5pm, Wednesday through Sunday. I live on route 8. I work on route 11. I live and work on route 19, which has been an amazing blessing for me. That route improved my quality of life immeasurably. Clock out at 5:00, grab groceries, get on the bus at 5:35, home by 6:00. That is still an eleven- hour day, with getting on route 8 at 6:55am. I've been taking a taxi weekend mornings, and getting a ride from a friend on Sunday evenings. I walked the two miles home for a time, whatever the weather, before route 19. That might be my only option now, but I don't know if I can physically manage it anymore. I have been worrying and weighing time, budget, and physical limitations.

I doubt the Connector will not be an option for me. I am familiar with it. I cannot build in that much waiting time into already long days.

One run of route 19 at 5:15 weekdays, and the rug would not be pulled out from under me. I would just have to worry about Saturday evenings. But, that's just me, around whom the world does not revolve. I imagine more people will

benefit from ending these shortened service days with routes 8 and 11.

Thank you for your attention. Sincerely,

Karen Hrdlick

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**From:** [Valley.Transit](#)  
**To:** [Ronald C. McDonald](#); [Amy Erickson](#); [Debra Ebben](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Regarding the planned changes to the bus routes.  
**Date:** Monday, June 10, 2024 10:59:51 AM

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**From:** Misty <mewmew34@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, June 9, 2024 12:27 PM  
**To:** Valley.Transit <Valley.Transit@Appleton.org>  
**Subject:** Regarding the planned changes to the bus routes.

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Writing to hopefully have my voice heard regarding the planned changes to the bus routes. I don't believe the changes should be carried out. While I understand they are probably being proposed as a result of staffing or financing issues, the problems won't be solved by making things more difficult for everyone who relies on the bus system.

I work third shift. I rely on catching the final run of Route 12 any weeknight I work. I catch the bus near my apartment at about 9:40pm and then get off at a stop just at the corner from my workplace. I will have to change my entire routine to try and catch the connector if I want to avoid spending money on Uber rides.

Being a third shift worker also means I tend to run my errands, such as grocery shopping and medical appointments, in the afternoon and evening. If the buses stop running late then I won't be able to run errands without paying for expensive Uber trips. It is unlikely I'll be able to properly schedule Connector rides the minimum two hours in advance when I don't know how long a medical appointment may take or when I don't know for sure how long it will take me to shop. Being able to simply go to the nearest bus stop and wait no more than an hour gives me much more freedom to get around, freedom that I will lose if the buses stop running so much earlier than usual.

I urge those involved to reconsider the proposed changes and instead keep the buses running on the schedules they have run on since I moved to the area 10 years ago. I know I am not the only person who will be greatly impacted by these changes if they are put into place next month and many of them will have an even harder time getting around in the future due to inability to schedule rides or find other means of transportation.

~Misty

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**From:** [Valley.Transit](#)  
**To:** [Ronald C. McDonald](#); [Amy Erickson](#); [Debra Ebben](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Proposed Schedule Changes  
**Date:** Monday, June 10, 2024 11:02:38 AM

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**From:** rls0912@gmail.com <rls0912@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, June 9, 2024 6:44 PM  
**To:** Valley.Transit <Valley.Transit@Appleton.org>  
**Subject:** Proposed Schedule Changes

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Hello,

I would like to take some time to address concerns with the proposed changes to the Valley Transit schedule. My concerns are two-fold. First, as a parent of a special needs young adult and second as an employer.

As an employer, we have a number of associates that rely on Valley Transit to get them to and from work. These changes would make it difficult for those individuals who work in the evening. Many of them already are not able to work on Sundays and holidays unless they find alternate transportation due to the buses not running. This would be a hardship as it could reduce their hours and leave our team short-handed because we have associates willing to work but cannot be scheduled because they have no reliable transportation. Yes, there are cabs and Uber/Lyft type services but they are very expensive to be used on a regular basis. Many of these associates are on fixed incomes and Valley Transit offers a low-cost and safe way for them to get to work and contribute to the society as a whole.

As a parent of a young adult with special needs, the bus has truly been the greatest means of independence for him. Not only does it allow him to get to and from his job but it also allows him to take the bus to appointments and recreational activities. He very much enjoys riding the bus around town to see different things, go to the mall or head downtown for the many activities that Appleton has to offer (parades, music festivals, etc.). He is not able to drive and more than likely never will. As a parent, I feel that the bus offers him safety as there is someone watching out for all of the riders. Since he is vulnerable due to his lack of social understanding, being the only person in a cab or Uber puts him in a greater position of being taken advantage of and that is very frightening. Knowing that the bus has specific routes at specific times, he is able to text us what bus he is on, where he is headed and when we can expect him to arrive at

the different destinations. This is very reassuring as a parent and one of the things that offers him independence as more than likely he will outlive us.

Simply knowing the possibility of the proposed changes...he is struggling with what that means for his schedule, especially when it comes to the social aspect on his days off. As a person who needs routine to function best, these changes would have a very big and negative impact on his life. One of the things that we are so proud of is his ability to be as independent as possible with his different abilities. This includes his ability to get around town to work and play.

I have lived in Appleton since 1996 and the Valley Transit system is one of many great things about living here. Not only have the services benefited my special needs son, my youngest also used Valley Transit to get to and from school prior to getting his license. This was invaluable as a single parent with a very small support system.

I don't believe that I am the only citizen/parent who has these feelings. I would certainly pay more for the services to be maintained as they currently are if the issue is cost.

Thank you for your time.

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Thank you!

Sharon Rusch  
(920) 475-0662

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**From:** [Valley.Transit](#)  
**To:** [Ronald C. McDonald](#); [Amy Erickson](#); [Debra Ebben](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Service cutbacks  
**Date:** Monday, June 10, 2024 11:05:49 AM

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**From:** Steve Grishaber <n9xoh@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 10, 2024 8:41 AM  
**To:** Valley.Transit <Valley.Transit@Appleton.org>  
**Subject:** Fw: Service cutbacks

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----- Forwarded Message -----

**From:** Steve Grishaber <n9xoh@yahoo.com>  
**To:** [valleytransit@appleton.org](mailto:valleytransit@appleton.org) <[valleytransit@appleton.org](mailto:valleytransit@appleton.org)>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 10, 2024 at 08:38:13 AM CDT  
**Subject:** Service cutbacks

Fix Valley Transit Commission:

Tomorrow night you will vote to drastically reduce the operating hours of the VT bus service. I understand that you really have no choice at this time. But, as a long-time supporter of bus service in the Appleton area, I feel this cutback is a danger to the continued existence of the service itself. Due to its nature, bus service has always needed financial support to supplement farebox revenue, just as occurs in any large metropolitan cities like Chicago and Milwaukee. Appleton is no different, other than in the fact that a much smaller proportion of the general population uses public transportation than in the larger cities. The other side of that fact is that the proportion of non-users is greater, and they often are opposed to spending public moneys on services they don't use. Service cutbacks such as the current proposal only add fuel to the opponents' fire.

As an occasional user of the service, I will be only slightly inconvenienced, as I use the service mostly to get downtown for the mid-week musical events in the evening. But of course, if I cannot get back home if the service ends at 6:00, I won't use it at all. The same holds true for the major downtown festivals, Mile of Music and Octoberfest. You and I both know that the dial-a-ride service will never be adequate replacement for the discontinued route service.

I fear that these proposed, albeit necessary, cutbacks will prove to be the first step toward the eventual discontinuance of all bus service as its opponents demand that it pay for itself through fare income, which is an impossibility.

Steve Grishaber  
1344 W Rogers Ave  
Appleton WI

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