

Please send email by May 24, 2018 public comment deadline, with cc Capital Metro board: (for more background read below this suggested message)

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[boardofdirectors@capmetro.org](mailto:boardofdirectors@capmetro.org)

Subject line:

Public comment re: Capital Metro bus route changes

I am writing regarding Capital Metro service route changes planned for June 3, 2018.

I believe the plan is not equitable and will have disparate impacts on our community.

If desired, you can mention any specific routes or experiences on your mind.

I am requesting FTA to suspend the June 3, 2018 service route changes from going into effect and to require a new plan.

Your name

Austin, TX

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To: Austin citizens

RE: Public comment period to address Capital Metro planned bus service changes NOT in public interest

**Capital Metro is attempting to reduce bus service for many Austinites, hurting workers like myself and families that rely on dependable public transportation.** This affects all of us -- neighbors who drive will experience worse traffic and our air quality will be more polluted. **I am writing to urge you to speak out by sending comments to Federal Transit Administration (FTA) before the public input period closes May 24th.** The FTA has the authority to suspend the service route change and to require that much more equitable routes are mapped. This is a critical opportunity for the public to be heard and stop these cuts that hurt our community.

Send your public comment to the FTA at [lynn.hayes@dot.gov](mailto:lynn.hayes@dot.gov) and [robert.patrick@dot.gov](mailto:robert.patrick@dot.gov) (Cc: Capital Metro, Austin City Council, Travis County Commissioners, Austin ISD Trustees, and several staff for these officials **[See cc list of emails at end]**).

Here are some talking points to help you craft comments about Capital Metro's major system changes:

- For over one year, many citizens and community groups voiced opposition to Capital Metro's route changes—planned to take effect June 3, 2018—due to disparate negative impacts.
- Capital Metro must comply with the 1964 Civil Rights Act, Title VI, yet the proposed changes hurt vulnerable transit-dependent people in our community, including elders and minorities.
- Approximately 90% of Capital Metro's budget comes from local taxpayers, yet proposed transit (bus) changes will be less fair and less equitable rather than improving the system for all.
- Key routes, such as Route 21/22-Exposition, 240-Rutland, and 392-Braker, serving important geographical areas will be eliminated, degraded, and/or have low impractical frequency.
- Route 240 (currently, 20 riders/hour) serving north Austin will be eliminated, harming patients, nurses, employees, and visitors who take this bus directly to the front entrance of a major hospital, St. David's North Austin Medical Center. In the new plan, all will be required to walk ¾ of a mile from the nearest bus stop on a different Route. This is unacceptable.
- Route 392 in north Austin (currently, 15.3 riders/hour) will no longer finish the last 2 miles of its current route to carry workers, residents, visitors to the dense Arboretum commercial and residential area, and instead they will have to take a transfer; that can take an extra 30 minutes.
- Route 21/22 serving east-west Austin will be eliminated to Howson Library, Randalls, O. Henry Middle School, and RBJ seniors/disability center, making it harder for workers to commute to jobs. Cherrywood neighborhood residents who work in UT area 3 miles away will need 2 buses rather than the single 21/22 bus. Another east-west serving bus, Route 333 has lower ridership yet its frequency of service will be improved while 21/22 was eliminated.

**Please join me in raising your voice to protect our community and these key transportation options. Send your comments in now! Don't wait for the May 24th deadline.** Sharing your own story and reasons will be most powerful.

Please spread the word and forward this email to others you know. I have also attached a flyer that shares more information. Please feel free to print it out and share with your organization, church, and friends. There is also opportunity to speak at Capital Metro's May 21, 2018 Regular Board Meeting. **We will win only if we mobilize many community members to make their voices heard.**

Glad to help with any questions you have; just email me through [IndyAustinContact@indyaustin.org](mailto:IndyAustinContact@indyaustin.org). Thank you for your support.

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**Email FTA:** [lynn.hayes@dot.gov](mailto:lynn.hayes@dot.gov), [robert.patrick@dot.gov](mailto:robert.patrick@dot.gov) (Cc: Capital Metro Board of Directors, Austin City Council, Travis County Commissioners, Austin ISD Trustees and several staff to officials):

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