

To: **Common Council File No. 161488**
Motion relating to the locations of various MCTS bus stops

From: Ald. Mark Borkowski

Date: February 10, 2017

Subject: Opposition to Bus Stop Changes – 43rd/Oklahoma/Forest Home

I oppose the bus stop changes proposed for the intersection of 43rd/Oklahoma/Forest Home under File 161488 (#6 under bus stops to be eliminated, #5 under bus stops to be added) and request that the File be amended to delete these changes.

Current Bus Stop

- Overall attractive, park-like location, especially for a stop located at the intersection of 3 major streets.
- Attractive, existing shelter – amenity for MCTS riders; adds to the functionality and appearance of the triangular “park” at 43rd/Oklahoma/Forest Home intersection.
- Shelter is also set back some distance from the curb – improves safety for shelter and bus stop users.
- Very short walking distance for MCTS passengers transferring from westbound Route 51 (Oklahoma) bus. Also short transfer distance to eastbound Route 51.
- Traffic passing the bus stop is often slowing or stopped for the light on Oklahoma – contributing to safety of MCTS riders who may be standing at the stop.

Proposed Bus Stop

- Desolate, inhospitable mid-block location between a bar and a used car sales lot.
- Small space precludes installation of a passenger shelter.
- MCTS riders will most likely be waiting at or near the curb – less safe than existing bus stop. Stop would be squeezed between 2 driveways.
- Traffic passing the bus stop is typically accelerating from the signal on Oklahoma (safety factor).
- Much longer walking distance for passengers transferring from westbound Route 51 bus – and much less safe if passengers cross Oklahoma from the stop at 45th Street, where there are no pedestrian signals.

Other Considerations

- MCTS proposes to “straighten” Route 14 by eliminating the turn at 43rd Street, thereby reducing the number of traffic signals a bus must pass through at 43rd/Oklahoma/Forest Home from 3 to 2. MCTS contends this will save travel time for Route 14 buses. However, buses will still have to contend with 2 signals, and the slight increase in speed does not outweigh the loss of amenities, convenience and safety for MCTS riders.
- Bus stop relocation proposal appears to put bureaucratic need for efficiency ahead of the interests of MCTS customers.



Google

Current Bus Stop - 43rd & Oklahoma



Proposed Bus Stop



Current

Proposed

Rider transfer "walk" - W-bound Oklahoma bus to W-bound F. Home