From: Shawn Tolivar
To: Public Testimony
Subject: In support of 250247
Date: Monday, March 24, 2025 10:45:31 AM

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Public transit is a vital service that supports our community both economically and socially. For many, it's how they explore KC when visiting. For others, it's their life line to work, to entertainment, to family etc.

For me personally, it has been a much valued service as my eyesight continues to deteriorate. Many of you know me as that bicycle guy on twitter. Besides the fact that I love riding my bicycle and experiencing the world around me, it is often unsafe for me to drive. I have a detached retina in one eye, and thinning retinas in both, meaning at any time my vision can go out in my right eye, and I am very light sensitive in both eyes. This is not good when driving, and the bus offers me options when experiencing these conditions.

Please fully fund the bus service. I know KCMO is being asked to fund this for the entire metro because other cities are freeloaders, but If we want to continue to strive to be a world class city, we need to invest in the things that make world class cities world class, and one of those is expansive, reliable, rapid and connected public transit. We have the World Cup coming up next year. Cutting funding for transit at this time sets us back and will only make it harder to have the transit we need for the World Cup. We can show the world we are serious about being a world class city, or we can do just enough to put up the veneer that we are a world class city and watch them all discover we are not. Please make the right choice!

Thank you
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Shawn Tolivar