



Ben Kessler <bkessler@bexley.org>

"Submit Comment to City Council" from Kelly Krase

1 message

Bexley Website <emcguinness@bexley.org>
To: electedofficials@bexley.org

Mon, May 26, 2025 at 9:49 PM

Someone submitted this comment to City Council:

Would you
like to
submit a
comment Yes
to City
Council?:

Your Name:: Kelly Krase

Your Email Address:: kelly@salontherapy.com

Your Home Address:: 1031 Chelsea Ave.

Your comment to the Bexley City Council:: Dear Mayor Kessler and council members:
Unfortunately I am unable to attend the 5/27/25 City Council meeting. I am resending my concerns with additional notes based on my attendance at the previous council meeting.

I would like to express my extreme concern for the recent choice to move the Rapid Transit bus stop to the corner of Pleasant Ridge and E. Main Street. I have been in regular attendance at the meetings with Linkus and the city. I became aware of the change of location through social media on November 14th, 2024 when I read an article on 10tv.com.

I am the owner of Salon Therapy 2353 E. Main St. since 2012 and a South Bexley resident since 1994 as well as a founding board member of the Bexley Community Foundation. Let me begin by saying I am not against mass transit in Columbus. The choice to move this stop to Pleasant Ridge and E. Main Street would be a critical mistake based on the ongoing and current issues that exist on this corner in regard to businesses, parking and pedestrian safety.

1. There has been absolutely no communication with the business owners. The businesses on this corner bring a tremendous amount of clientele from all over central Ohio. This is an integral part of the success of all commerce on E. Main Street.
2. Traffic on this corner gets backed up on a regular basis. Cars can sit for several light changes before being capable of making turns. The "staggered" stop between Dawson and E. Main causes confusion to drivers who then run the red light. Emergency vehicles have a challenging time navigating. What due diligence has council and city officials performed to deem that this is the best, safest and least challenging location for the proposed stop? Have there been traffic studies, average speed studies or congestion studies prior to making this change?
3. Parking on and around this corner is already a challenge. As business owners on this corner it is a daily battle for our employees and patrons to find ample parking with restrictions in the neighborhood north of E. Main and Capital University south of E. Main. With a Bexley stop added with no "park & ride" option this will only cause larger parking headaches in the future to an area that is already experiencing issues. This was already evident in Italian Village when COTA was running the "Circulator" bus on High Street and it forced Italian Village to permit the entire neighborhood based on COTA riders occupying business and residential parking for extended periods.

4. Pedestrian safety is a concern on this corner currently due to vehicles running red lights and speeding vehicles on E. Main. Without designating a center lane for Rapid Transit through Bexley the design of a stop that sits in the median raises many red flags for the safety of those waiting at the stop. E. Livingston and the amount of accidents should be a wake up call for the potential danger this puts people in.

I am concerned about the manner & the timing that the current survey was administered. How do you use this survey constructively and tally information when no specific questions were asked?

Why was the relocation of the stop announced after the election? Why were the businesses and landlords not considered or consulted when making this decision?

Salon Therapy is on the southeast corner of E. Main Street and Pleasant Ridge with windows on the north and west. My work station puts me in a position where I face that corner all day long. My concerns are real and valid. I invite any or all of you to come see my view of the corner before you make a lasting decision that will forever change this already challenging intersection.

*****I attended the City Council meeting on 5/13/25 and chose not to speak but to listen to the concerns of others along with hearing from a resident that was in favor of this choice. However, after hearing from the COTA/LinkUs representative I now have additional concerns that directly relate to the lack of a Park & Ride option for Bexley. After following and attending meetings leading up to the November election LinkUs spoke continuously about creating new ridership. At the council meeting all the data that was presented was based on current #2 COTA ridership. Once people realize they can park for free in our neighborhood (which is the safest option for someone to leave their car on the route) they will take advantage of not paying for downtown parking. This will only cause more parking nightmares for our E. Main business community. I urge you to seriously consider what effect this will have on current and future business owners, employees & patrons. I believe strongly it is in our best interest as a community to have COTA work with Capital University for a designated Park & Ride space.

COTA also said they plan on reducing the #2 bus to once per hour yet at a previous council meeting they spoke about riders using it as a transfer option. That also seems concerning that the current bus stops for the #2 do not have benches or protection from weather if a rider has to wait longer between buses.

With all of the growth and changes happening in our city and surrounding areas I believe we need to be mindful and proactive when making decisions that will change our community for the future.

On a side note, the Rapid Transit and the E. Livingston construction schedule are both slated from 2027-2030 which will also present a whole other nightmare for our area.

Thank you for your time and service to our community.

Do you
wish to be
contacted
regarding
your
comment?:

Yes