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Greetings,

We write to express our concern regarding changes to the Beacon Loop Bus, and to urge the City to reconsider its plans to reduce this route. Although this plan does not directly impact the district, we are advocating on behalf of Beacon students who depend on this free form of transportation to safely move around the city and get to jobs and other activities outside of school.

Since it began in 2018, the Beacon Loop has seen significantly increased ridership — growing from less than 1,000 annual riders when it was the Beacon G Route, to more than 30,000 a year as the Beacon Free Loop. This no-cost transportation option, which includes the Beacon Housing Authority and stops along 9D, is especially important for local seniors, students, and other residents without access to reliable personal transportation.

The bus provides easy access to the city's commercial corridor, connecting riders to jobs, local businesses, and the train line. While making Beacon more accessible, it also aligns with the city's goals for reduced road congestion and more sustainable transportation options.

Shifting the Loop Bus from a free, local service with a more inclusive route to a Main Street shuttle will essentially transform it into a service geared toward leisure and tourism. The primary goal of this bus is to serve the residents of Beacon, and while it can also be an added bonus for visitors, we shouldn't lose sight of the importance of this route to those who live and work here — from our youngest student riders to our elderly passengers.

We urge you to reconsider these proposed changes on behalf of those you serve, and to focus efforts instead on enhancing Loop Bus service through improved scheduling and infrastructure, which will, in turn, increase ridership.

Safe, reliable public transportation is a hallmark of any well-developed modern city. Removing this service from the residents who need it most is a step backward for Beacon.

Sincerely,

Meredith Heuer

Meredith Heuer
Board President

/vlj