

## Compliation of Email Feedback from Link Riders

8/7/09

I live in the near UM campus area. The "Link" bus is a terrific way for me to get downtown and to Kerrytown without hassle. I'll be sad (and also far less able to shop downtown) if it ceases operation.

I'd be willing to pay a small fee to ride it even though I am a senior citizen and must watch costs. Hope it won't go away!

Thank you.  
-Prue Heikkinen  
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Hello,  
I'm writing with concerns about the elimination of the link bus. Have any decisions been made recently? As a recent U of M graduate still residing in Ann arbor, I would be very disappointed if the link was eliminated. Many people, not just students depend on the link to reach Kerrytown from the neighborhoods around Hill and Oxford housing. If the link were gone, there would be no quick route to get there and future DDA plans will not suffice. Please reconsider this elimination. Thank you for your time and I would love to hear about any updates.  
Regards, Brittany Lakin  
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I am emailing to ask you to reconsider discontinuing The Link service, and instead consider running it less often (maybe every 20 instead of every 15 minutes every hour) and perhaps less often (maybe every 30 min) after 7 pm or so.

I use the Link regularly during the academic year between the Transit Center and my office which is on the east side of central campus. I often leave campus later than 6 pm (I have a flexible schedule) and find the service invaluable during fall and winter months when it begins to get dark earlier. Service between campus and Oxford Housing is not of concern to me, but service between campus and the transit center is of great concern.

Thank you,  
Angela Ebreo, Ph.D.  
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To whom it may concern,  
I use the Link frequently and would be very disappointed if service was discontinued to the downtown area. I commute between downtown and central campus and use the link daily during the school year.  
Best,  
-Debra Siegel  
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I am a graduate student at Michigan, and I regularly take AATA transportation (line 15) from my residence to the Blake Transit Center downtown. My office and lab are on campus, and when it is running during the year, I regularly ride the Link from the Transit Center to East Hall on Church St. Especially during snow, rain and other inclement weather, the Link is a great service to me as well as other students, faculty, and members of the community who regularly commute to central campus. If the Link route is eliminated, I hope AATA quickly adopts another route that serves the Blake Transit center and around central campus.

Sincerely, Alicia Hofelich  
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To Whom it May Concern:

I am very dismayed at the proposed elimination of THE LINK for the following reasons:

1. I live in the North Burns Park neighborhood have used THE LINK since its beginning. I, therefore, can keep my car parked at home -- something the city has been encouraging. Because I am a senior citizen who often does not have the physical stamina to walk to every downtown destination this elimination seems more isolating and certainly makes it harder for me to enjoy the city I've called home for more than forty years. I think it is short sighted of the DDA to eliminate their funding. I've seen these buses packed, especially during bad weather. I also have felt safer to use THE LINK after dark and because I find it hard to see when driving at night this again is a loss for those of us who rely on these kinds of services.

2. I have an adult disabled son who has an A-Ride pass but The LINK has gives him more mobility and flexibility.

3. I also think that polling people before the surge of academic year residents return feels like the AATA administration is stacking the deck. You will then not gain as much feedback and therefore can say no one objects.

I'm aware there are financial issues here but it certainly eliminates a quality of life service. And if the DDA is thinking about their own service it seems wasteful to invent something new when you have something that is working. Why did this partnership fail? What a disappointment.

Sincerely, Jill Blixt

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To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to voice strong opposition towards the proposed elimination of the Link come the end of August. There is no doubt that the Link is an essential part of our community that is utilized by a great number of students and Ann Arbor residents. Particularly in Michigan's winter season, many students rely on the Link to meet the demands of their everyday lives. It takes us to class, to the library, to meet with professors, to partake in research, go to club meetings - just to name a few - in a safe and timely manner. Moreover, the bus plays a vital role in protecting students from the cold and wind, keeping us healthy and allowing us to focus even more on our academic endeavors and other responsibilities. In such a rigorous environment, a transportation system that lifts the burden of walking long distances in severe winter weather is invaluable. Furthermore, many of us have jobs we really need in the Main Street district that need a way of getting there efficiently. Balancing work and school is difficult enough on its own and many don't have the capability of walking from such distances everyday in the cold and at night.

Hundreds of students living in several fraternities and sorority houses as well as Oxford housing rely tremendously on The Link. Its removal would bring severe consequences that would limit opportunities and lower the well being of so many individuals.

Please let me know what I or anyone else can do to prevent this proposal from passing. I can easily find at least a hundred people who are willing to sign a petition and keep it running. Thank you for you time and I look forward to hearing back from you.

Sincerely,  
Melissa Tsoi

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Hi,

We live on Miller Ave and really depend on the Link to get around downtown. Many graduate students are in our same position. Please do not discontinue it!!

-Bobby Levine  
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Please consider this a voice of agreement for the idea of discontinuing the Link. Let's concentrate our transportation funding on routes into downtown and UM, not within downtown/UM.

Just so you know, I am an Ann Arbor resident and have worked for UM for 11 years. Never had a UM parking pass--- always a bus rider.

Keep up the good work!  
Sarah Clark  
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I am writing on behalf on continuing service for the Link. As a resident of Kerrytown, I am a daily user of the Link for traveling to and from work. I suggest making the Link no longer a free route.

Thank you.  
Joseph Orr  
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AATA,

I am writing to ask that you do not discontinue The Link, or, if it is discontinued, please consider creating a different downtown circulator route.

I moved to Ann Arbor in June, and I use the bus system to get around the city. I was looking forward to using the Link route, especially for getting around during inclement weather.

Thank you for your consideration.  
- Alessandra Gillen  
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To Whom It May Concern:

Please do not stop service of the Link! It has been such a useful and helpful mode of transportation that allows individuals to travel across the campus. It is such a necessary "link" for those that live in the Kerrytown/Main St. area and those students who live in Oxford housing to get where they need to go. Even though I live closer to campus, I have used the Link many times as a resource. It would be a big mistake to end this wonderful service that you offer!

Thank you,  
Amy Steinway  
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To Whom It May Concern:

I've recently heard of the proposed elimination of the Link line.

From September through April, I am a weekly rider, if not more often. I would not only love to see the Link return in the fall, but I would love to see it expanded to a slightly larger loop that might include the Michigan Union and the Hill/State/Packard area. Additionally, I think one bus going clockwise around the loop and one going counterclockwise could help the cause as well.

I work with students on campus and I know that many of them view N. University Ave. as far away (as ridiculous as it may sound), so walking from the Union area to N. University to catch the Link is unappealing. Students who I know that take the Link sometimes don't like to because they need to go the opposite way around the loop, instead of going all the way downtown or campus first.

I would love to see the Link survive if it's free or if it costs \$0.25 like it used to.

Thanks for your attention,  
Matt Darby

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**Please do not eliminate The Link. It's a valuable bus service to the students of the University of Michigan.**  
**Michael Collins**

Hello,

As a student at the University of Michigan, I am concerned by the proposed elimination of The Link. I lived near Oxford housing and the bus route was invaluable to me, especially in times of rain and snow (and there are plenty of those). It is disheartening that you are considering eliminating the route; I can guarantee you that such a decision will not be well received by the student body. By removing The Link, you are further isolating an already obscure part of campus.

I would also like to point out that by removing The Link during the summer, you will not face as much opposition to the elimination because a lot of incoming freshman are unfamiliar with the usefulness of the bus route; most haven't even been assigned to residence halls yet, so there is no way you will hear from them now. Many of the people who used it last year will not be living in the same place next year, so they won't take the small amount of time needed to share their feedback. If you are seriously considering removing the route, I recommend doing so in the middle of the year so that you can really gauge the impact on the students and see how they react.

Even though Oxford housing is relatively small compared to other residential halls, you should also keep in mind that a large portion of the Greek community (encompassing sophomores, juniors, and seniors) use The Link on a daily basis.

I would be happy to answer any questions you might have.

Respectfully,  
Ian Margolis

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**Don't get rid of the link!!! I use it almost every day! What will Oxford Housing do??**  
**Meghan Glynn**

The Link services students from morning to late night. I take the link to work regularly and use it instead of my car when attending events at Hill.

I would be very sorry to see it go.

Artemis Leontis  
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Please do not eliminate the Link! As a resident of downtown (East Ann and 4th ave) who works at the university, the Link is especially useful (and used) during commuter hours, and prevents a lot of unnecessary driving and parking in the most congested areas of the city.

Service is already very limited on the Link as it is; maybe a better option would be to reduce frequency during non-peak commuter hours and provide once an hour service on weekend evenings? This would definitely cover the most important reasons to have the Link service:

1. Relieving parking and driving congestion between downtown and the University areas.
2. Offering a public transport option during peak bar and restaurant times to prevent drunk driving in highly pedestrianized areas.

These are both significant goals for civic and commercial health in Ann Arbor. Thank you.

Yours,  
Mira Seo  
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To whom it may concern:

As a resident of Ann Arbor and a student at the University of Michigan, I find the Link very useful and would like to express concern over its proposed elimination. It's very convenient to use, especially during the winter months for students who have to get to central campus from the Kerrytown area or Oxford housing. For students who live at Oxford housing, the walk to central campus would be the longest for a University residence hall without a bus alternative. I know personally my house next year will be in Kerrytown, and I was counting on using the Link to get to class during the winter. Please consider keeping this service.

Thank you,  
Yefim Zaltsman  
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To Whom it May Concern,

I would like to voice my strong opposition to the proposed elimination of the Link bus route. As a student with a disability, the Link provides an invaluable service to both myself and my fellow students. I kindly ask that you please reconsider your proposed changes.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,  
Adena Rottenstein  
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Hi,  
My name is Lauren Lacy, and I'm writing to ask you not to discontinue "The Link." Having lived in Oxford Housing, I constantly utilized that route and found it immensely helpful. Not only that, but it's a fantastic way to comfortably explore the downtown Ann Arbor area even when weather conditions are terrible in the winter. It would be a shame to see this service eliminated.

Thanks for your time,  
Lauren Lacy  
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As a regular user of the AATA I urge you to continue operation of the link. It is a valuable public service.  
Evan Childress  
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I use the Link whenever it is running. I live in the Burns Park neighborhood and I often need to go to the Michigan League. Please maintain this service.

Thanks!  
Bharath Iyengar  
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I cannot believe you are getting rid of the link. This honestly is going to make living in my fraternity very difficult when harsher weather shows up.

Please please reconsider,  
Alex Laird  
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To whom it may concern:

I recently read about the proposal to eliminate the Link bus service. I strongly oppose this proposal. As a resident of Oxford housing last year, I relied on the Link for all my transportation needs, from getting to class to going to dinner on Main Street. Without the Link, getting around last year would have not have been nearly as efficient or convenient. Please reconsider eliminating the Link service.

Thank you,  
Linda Zhong.  
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AATA,

Please do not eliminate the Link service for the 2009-2010. It has been an incredible convenience and has motivated me to use other AATA lines.

Sincerely,  
Will Mattson  
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To Whom It May Concern,

I was completely shocked to hear that AATA is considering eliminating The Link. As a university student and Oxford Rd. resident, this is my main mode of transportation throughout central campus. Traveling around campus would be sufficiently more difficult without this bus route. Not only is it useful for getting to class and other commitments on campus, but The Link is only option to get downtown (State St. and Liberty area) in a reasonable amount of time.

I am speaking out for the hundreds of students who live in private as well as university housing in the Oxford Rd. area. I would also like to speak out in support of the non-university community members whom I find on the Link each and every day as well. They may or may not have heard about this, and I want it to be known that students aren't the only ones who could be penalized.

Thank you for listening.

Sincerely,  
Noah Neary

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Dear AATA,

I just heard that you're planning to discontinue the Link. Please don't.

Without the Link, it would be harder for me to travel from my apartment in Kerrytown to Central Campus, to the shops, restaurants, bars, and other businesses in the South University area.

Without the Link, I would be less likely to shop and eat on South U, and I would have a harder time traveling safely and easily to and from Friday night services at Hillel.

Without the Link, I may have to consider purchasing a car, especially for when I want to do late-night things or get to campus quickly, or for when the sidewalks are snowy and icy.

Plus the purple ones are really pretty.

Sincerely,  
Eric Livak-Dahl

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Please don't shut down the link! I am a graduate student who has invested 6 years and over 100,000 dollars of my own money in loans to go to school here instead of somewhere else and for that reason I cannot afford a car (let alone the parking that would be required of me). I live too close to my school to utilize the AATA but too far to walk (it would be over a 30 minute walk without the Link)!

Removing the link from campus would greatly reduce my ability to be a student here. If there is an issue with use, I really believe it could be improved with other changes.

PLEASE SAVE THE LINK!  
Brian S. Meredith

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Keep the link  
David Frankel

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To whom it may concern:

The proposed shut-down of The Link bus service would greatly hinder the everyday lives of thousands of Michigan students. I personally have relied on the bus for transit to class and to downtown Ann Arbor for two full years, and I know many others in the same boat.

Elimination of this bus route would not only put a strain on the schedules and ability to travel for students, but it would also add more unnecessary congestion to the campus and downtown areas. More students would be forced to take their own vehicles to these areas, despite the already desolate parking situation.

Please reconsider the decision to eliminate The Link from service. Thank You.

Ted Herringshaw

I'd like to express my support for continuing the Link service. I believe that it is a great resource and it also helps relieve the parking problems experienced by downtown and Kerry town. I'd also recommend that you run the service during the May through August period with some modification (eliminating the run to Oxford Housing, for instance). If people can be enticed to use the link in good weather, when they might be more inclined to head from campus to downtown for a little shopping or a lunch, then they might well be more inclined to use it in the winter once they have seen how efficient the system works. It might be a good way to increase ridership and awareness in general.

Virginia J. Reese

Hello,

I urge you to save the Link route from September through April. This is an important option for people during the tough winter months who don't want to drive but can't walk long distances. I rely on this service - it reduces my walk into work by about half and helps during severe weather. If costs are too high, perhaps the route could be reduced to 30 minute intervals instead of the 15 minutes intervals used last year.

The Link seems to be well-used during the morning and afternoon hours when I tend to ride it.

Thanks you for considering my request,

Catherine Riseng, Ph.D.

Dear AATA,

I would like to formally express my opposition to the removal of "the link" from the AATA scheduled routes. The link was extremely helpful throughout my last year living in the Oxford area. I used the link countless times and was always pleased with its frequent stops and outstanding service, especially from one particular driver named Jay. Jay would not only run efficient and on-time routes, but he would offer a smile and a great attitude to each person who stepped on to that big purple bus.

I hope you reconsider your plan to remove the link from Ann Arbor. It would be a shame.

Sincerely,  
Hank Peyser



Dear AATA,

Please reconsider taking away the Link.

I rely on the Link to take me to class and home especially when it is raining or snowing. I know of several other students that rely on the Link services as well. If it is necessary to charge regular fees or to show your student card to ride the Link I think that might be appropriate.

I don't know your reasons for stopping the Link services, but please consider that there is a need for it. I think as more students and residents become aware of the Link's route that it will become invaluable to them as well.

Thank you,

Sincerely,  
Bethany Hellmann

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To whom it may concern:

I understand that in the current economic climate, businesses must capitalize on any and all cost-cutting measures. As a resident of Ann Arbor, I use the Link on a daily basis, and admittedly, I often am one of few others on the bus. There are, however, peak hours of usage on weekend evenings and on cold winter days. I strongly feel that AATA would benefit from keeping the Link, even if only in a more limited role. I, along with the frequent Link users I know, would gladly pay a fee for the services offered. Please consider my thoughts, and good luck with the decision.

Thomas O'Brien

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To whom it may concern:

The Link is an integral part of transportation for many students of U of M and citizens of Ann Arbor. Eliminating it would be a major inconvenience to all of these people who depend on it as their sole means of transportation to get to work and class everyday. The current service is punctual, professional, dependable, and an asset to our community; most importantly, it truly is a "link" to the community for those that live on or near its route. I urge all involved to keep this service running to keep the Link's riders connected to Ann Arbor.

Sincerely,  
Anthony W. Tricozzi

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I have heard that there is a proposal to discontinue the Link. I used the service frequently in the past year and found it to be quite valuable. I would be disappointed if the Link were to be discontinued.

Regards,  
-Jarod Kelly

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Hi,

I would like to lend my support to continuing the Link, connecting downtown, Kerrytown and Campus. As a grad student, I ride it often during the winter when the trek from my west-side home to campus seems longer than usual. I know many people - especially elderly or disabled folks - rely on the free service to get around town, especially in the winter. Please keep the Link alive!

Thank you for your time,  
Andrea Liberatore

Dear AATA,

I have heard that you are planning to discontinue the Link. Please do not carry on your plans. Without the Link, it would be very inconvenient to go from one place to another one campus. Without the Link, I will not be able to go to the Farmer's Market. On rainy and snowy days, the Link has saved me when I was getting late for class. The Link has saved me a couple times when I was on E. Liberty and on Church St. and I did not feel safe at all. The Link came up and I was able to jump on it right away and be dropped off at my destination. At night time, it is really scary. Although UofM may have its own safety system - it is definitely not safe enough and not EVERYONE plans to use it. Using a bus helped me go home after attending performances at the Power Center.

In other words, the Link has not helped only me, but thousands of others to be live in Ann Arbor without a car. We are STUDENTS. We do not have the cash to spend on cars and expensive parking garage fees. And there is no point for cars in a STUDENT CAMPUS. The Link helps me get around in winter, especially when the sidewalks are icy and dangerous. As a member of the Ann Arbor community, the Link encourages me to shop farther from where I live.

If you continue to discontinue the Link from running, you are doing a disservice to the Ann Arbor community and to University of Michigan. The Link is part of our community and shall always stay as part of our community. I do hope you will take this letter in consideration, and understand the great and devastated consequences it will bring to the students of the University of Michigan.

Plus the purple ones are really pretty.

Sincerely,  
Ya Cee Ng aka "A Loyal Link Rider"

To Whom It May Concern:

Regarding the proposed elimination of the Link bus route, I am urging you to reconsider this decision. During the academic year, I rely heavily upon the Link in the mornings to reach campus on time for teaching duties, and other meetings. It is extremely useful to myself, and colleagues of mine, as it provides regular and efficient service from the transit center and other downtown areas to campus. No other single route provides this service. Though there have been funding changes, I urge you to please reconsider this proposal. Perhaps, the route could be one which requires payment, like the other bus routes if that would help alleviate cost concerns. Thank you for your time and consideration!

Jessica Bernard

Dear AATA,

I just heard that you're planning to discontinue the Link. Please don't.

Without the Link, it would be hard for me to commute to campus from:  
my apartment on the West Side.

Without the Link, I would be less likely to:  
shop in Kerrytown, shop downtown, shop at the Farmers' Market, shop on South U, use the public library, use the post office, or go out much during the winter which happens to be a few months longer in Michigan than I am used to.

Without the Link, I wouldn't have a safe way to get home after a late night:  
studying on campus, dining downtown, attending a performance at Hill Auditorium or the Power Center, or attending Friday night services at Hillel, all of which make up my experience at U of M.

The Link helps me to live in Ann Arbor without a car, especially when I want to do late-night things or get to campus quickly. The Link helps me get around in winter, especially when the sidewalks are icy and dangerous. It also keeps my friends and I connected when no one wants to walk far.

Last year I was part of Oxford's Hall Council and we were trying to work with AATA to figure out a better bus route for the Link and now the idea of eliminating the Link altogether is circulating? Without the Link, I think many member of the Ann Arbor community will feel disconnected and at a loss. Also, on my many rides on the Link I saw many types of people from students with far walks, to parents with their kids, to elderly community members trying to get around town.

Eliminating the Link would put these people at a great loss.

Please save the Link.

Sincerely,  
Brianna Freedman

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To whom this may concern,

I am sending this email in regards to the possibility of the elimination of the Link bus route. I have lived in the Hill/Oxford area for the past two years, and as a University student, the Link has been an excellent service. It has been a huge convenience for me going to class, work, and meetings. I am writing this with the hope that the Link bus route may not be eliminated. I do understand the tough economic situation, however if a small fee was necessary to ride the link, I'm positive that students would still continue to use it. I would recommend that the AATA considers this as an option before considering complete elimination.

Thank you,  
Aaron Russ

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I use the link everyday and I know all of my fraternity brothers do as well. Getting to class, especially during the winter months is going to be a much bigger hassle if the link is shut down. Please keep the link running!

Thanks,  
Tad Ritter

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Hello,

My name is Garrett Johnson and I will be in my sophomore year at the University of Michigan this fall. I am writing to AATA to protest the potential elimination of the Link bus service. When I heard of these plans, I was immediately surprised. The AATA must not realize the value the Link has for U of M students. After a year of living in the dorms, I am very excited to live in my fraternity's house this year. However, our Phi Gamma Delta chapter house is quite far from central campus (at the corner of Hill and Oxford), and many of its residents of this past year relied completely on the Link for transportation to the University education buildings and to downtown Ann Arbor. At the end of my pledge term, I lived in the house and depended upon the Link to get to class amidst my sleep deprivation and pledging responsibilities. During this long week in January, I became aware of the importance of the Link to members of my fraternity as well as surrounding Greek houses. The Link's services are also very important to freshmen living in Oxford housing, as many of my friends explained to me this past year. The reliable schedule of the Link has saved countless students the time and exertion of embarking on the long trek to central campus, as well as cab fares for trips into downtown Ann Arbor. In fact, the convenience of the Link was a major factor in my decision to live in the remote chapter house this coming fall.

This shocking news has left me questioning whether the coming year will be as smooth and enjoyable as I had expected it to be. Although many other members of my fraternity may have also contacted the AATA regarding this issue, I wanted to contribute to the protest and have my voice heard.

Please recognize the value many students place on the convenience of the Link bus system and reconsider its elimination.

Sincerely,  
Garrett Johnson

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Dear AATA,

I just heard that you're planning to discontinue the Link. Please don't!

The Link helps me commute to campus from my house since I live on the West side. Many of my classes are in East Hall and it is a long long walk so I often take the Link.

Without the Link, I wouldn't have a safe way to get home after a late night of studying on campus or working. The Link has saved me many times from walking long distances in the awful Ann Arbor winter.

The Link helps me to live in Ann Arbor without a car, especially when I want to do late-night things or get to campus quickly.

Plus the purple buses stand out nicely!

Sincerely,  
Sylvia Dai

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Dear AATA,

I urge you not to eliminate The Link route, as it is a vital service to many members of the community who would otherwise not be able to reach their destinations around the city. I have many friends who rely on it regularly. Thank you for your consideration.

Dan Wilson

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Hello,

I will be a sophomore at the University of Michigan in the fall. It has been brought to my attention that there is a proposal to discontinue the Link, and I was hoping that an email from a student like myself would give you some reasons to reconsider. First of all, it will disallow the majority of students who do not have cars from going downtown to Kerrytown. It will also affect students' ability to commute from off-campus housing to central campus for classes.

Further, I know I speak for all who live in Ann Arbor during the frigid winter months of the year that the roads and sidewalks get extremely icy. I rely on the Link as a safer option in getting to and from classes, and getting downtown without encountering any safety hazards. Our university is located on such a large campus and is surrounded by such a great town. I would hate to see transportation become difficult enough that we lose our ability to explore and enjoy all the wonderful things that made us initially fall in love with University of Michigan. When I came to visit for campus day in February of 2008, I found that Kerrytown was a very interesting and fun place to spend the spare time that I had, and that itself made me biased towards Michigan over other schools that had accepted me. I want to be able to experience that for the next three years that I am here as an undergraduate student, and I sincerely hope incoming and current students' abilities to have the same experience will not be hindered by a lack of transportation to get there.

Although I am sure you have been getting many of these emails, I hope you take into consideration the interference and trouble this change will have on our daily lives at the university. The difficulties that will surface with the removal of the Link would be staggering for so many of us on and off campus who rely on it. Thank you for your time, and I hope this email has given you another perspective.

Samantha Scharmett

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I lived in Oxford 07-08 school year, then Alpha Phi for 08-09 school year and I'm living in Alpha Phi 09-10 school year. I have used to Link basically every school day and it would be so sad if the Link was stopped. It is such a convenient route for all of the frats, sororities, oxford kids and geddes apartment kids, who sometimes feel like they're in a different world living on the outskirts of campus. Not only do I use the Link to get to class, but also to shop on E. Liberty, go to dinner on Main St. and go to Kerrytown.

The Link has been an integral part of my life since I started attending U of M and I hope to ride the purple bus again next fall.

Thanks,  
Ivy Forester

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To whom it may concern,

Please, please, please do not eliminate the link route. This upcoming year I will be living on the corner of Oxford and Hill. The link is going to be the only public transportation that is remotely close to my house that also takes me anywhere I plan to go on campus or downtown. There are numerous people in the fraternities and sororities around where I'll be living that need the link. Also there will be a new batch of freshman living in Oxford who will be completely disadvantaged by a lack of bus service. In fact I was hoping to talk to the AATA about extending the links service into the weekend, quite possibly the most useful days. If it is already a done deal, I hope you can aid myself and fellow link-lovers in petitioning the university to have their busses take over the link route.

Sule F. Baptiste

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To whom it may concern:

The Link is a really important part of the U of M campus-- I use it daily and I hope to continue using it for years to come. I would like to let you know that whatever steps are necessary to keep the Link in service should be taken! If there is anything we can do to help, please let us know.

Thanks!  
Jimmy Bloniarz  
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I am writing to encourage you to continue running the Link.

Public transportation is a vital part of the community that many members rely upon. Please reconsider your plans to discontinue this route.

Thank you.  
David Fribush  
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Dear AATA,  
Please do not discontinue the Link. It is a very valuable service to everyone in the Ann Arbor community who does not live on campus. For example, in the winter it would be impossible for me to go from Walnut to Kerrytown. Without the link, my college experience - as well as the experiences of many others - will be significantly lessened. Please please please consider keeping it around. It is a vital part of the student daily life and the community in general.

Thank you,  
Daniel Jay Marcus  
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Hello...

I am writing to protest the proposed discontinuation of The Link service. I am a faculty member at the University of Michigan, living in the Kerrytown area. During the school year, I use The Link daily, to get from my home in Kerrytown to my office at Weill Hall (Hill & State.) The Link service is particularly useful during the late fall, winter, and early spring months, when it is extremely cold and snowy, and difficult to walk the 1.5 miles (or more) to my office. I suspect that many other students and faculty are in the same situation; The Link bus is almost always full when I board it in the mornings.

Finally, I must note that it is unfortunate that the discussion of the discontinuation of The Link bus is taking place during the summer, when the primary riders of this service (students and faculty) are not in Ann Arbor and cannot articulate their needs for such a service or their opposition to the proposed discontinuation.

If you do choose to discontinue The Link, I hope that either the University or the City of Ann Arbor develop services to bring commuters who are coming from the Kerrytown/Downtown area to campus and back. If you have any questions or need additional information from me, you are welcome to contact me using the information below.

Sincerely,  
Shobita Parthasarathy  
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To whom it may concern,

As a student who lived on Geddes Ave last year (past Oxford), I can honestly say that, without the link, my life would have been drastically different last year.

Aside from the many long walks during the harsh winter that I did not have to take, my ability to succeed academically and remain involved on campus was largely facilitated by my the service that the Link provided. I could not imagine how difficult the elimination of the route would make the lives of numerous students, including all students living in the university dorms at Oxford.

Please do not eliminate the link, you would be doing a great disservice to a huge amount of students. The link is always crowded for a reason.

-Benjamin Davis  
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Hello,

I would like to express my dismay at the proposed closing of the AATA Link bus route around central campus and downtown. As a blind graduate student who has recently moved to a location off of Hill Street near Washtenaw, the Link is a crucial service which I need in order to safely travel back and forth between my home and campus where I teach and study. This proposed elimination of the route will not only affect thousands of students and employees of the university and town, but will have a huge impact upon the most vulnerable populations, the disabled, elderly, and low income people who do not have bikes or cars. I ask you not to cancel the Link route.

Sincerely,  
Renee Echols  
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Dear AATA,

I am a University of Michigan graduate student and a member of the Ann Arbor community.

I am writing to request that the Link service NOT be discontinued. It has been a boon to many in the campus community, especially women with children, the disabled, and the ill. The general community has certainly benefited from the route, especially during the harsh winters.

Please reconsider this in light of the community's needs.

I am available for any further comments or clarifications in this regard.

Sincerely,  
Sri Nair.  
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Hi,

This is to request AATA authorities to reconsider the decision to stop the Link service. The Link is very useful to graduate students without a car and I hope you will resume services in August. Thank You.

best,  
Navaneetha Mokkil  
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Dear AATA,

I just heard that you're planning to discontinue the Link. Please don't.

Without the Link, it would be hard for me to commute from my house near campus to work on Main Street. Especially late at night after my shift or when the weather is bad.

Without the Link, I would be less likely to shop in Kerrytown and dine at the restaurants downtown.

Without the Link, I wouldn't have a safe way to get home after a late night attending a performance at Hill Auditorium or the Power Center, studying in Kerrytown, or going out with friends who live far from me.

The Link helps me to live in Ann Arbor without a car. While I love to walk, it is dangerous to do so far distances at night, especially since I am a girl. In addition, the Link helps me get around in winter, especially when the sidewalks are icy and dangerous. I think the link is extremely necessary in a town so cold as Ann Arbor. It also entices students to dine and shop at many of Ann Arbor's local businesses.

Please do not discontinue the link! It has been a great convenience to me and many others during my time at UofM.

Sincerely,  
Nicole Johnson

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To whom it may concern:

As a proud member of the Ann Arbor community, it disappoints me to hear of the proposed elimination of the Link service. While I understand these are tough times for all of us, I struggle to see how the cutting of costs through the eliminated Link service outweighs its disastrous effects on the prosperity of our city's downtown commercial area and its' residents like myself who rely on the Link for safe, reliable, and economical transportation every day.

For the past two years, the Link has contributed significantly to my quality of life in Ann Arbor. It plays an integral part in my commute to class and work, and allows me to enjoy an environmentally conscious, car-free lifestyle in our city. Moreover, it provides a convenient way to access and support the local businesses that make Ann Arbor such a great place to live.

It's truly too difficult to adequately express my concern for the discontinuation of this service in words alone. I strongly encourage you to contact me and I will gladly contribute to any effort to maintain bus service throughout the campus/Main St/Kerrytown areas of Ann Arbor. To eliminate the Link would be a harsh blow to the quality of life of so many Ann Arbor citizens. I urge those with authority to investigate other alternatives (perhaps paying fare?) to keep essential transportation service available to the Ann Arbor community.

Regards,  
Matt Keagy

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Very very disappointed to hear that the Ann Arbor Transportation Authority plans to eliminate the free Link bus (from downtown to Central Campus). I use it regularly -- when it is in service -- to get myself from central campus to the YMCA. Any plans for service to/from the YMCA?

Martha Conway

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Dear Ann Arbor Transit Authority,

In hearing of the recent proposal to shut down the Link service, I feel compelled to send my correspondence regarding how much of a negative impact this decision will impose on the students of the University of Michigan.

I'm a Michigan student going into my second year, and entering as a Freshman and being housed in Oxford, I'm positive when I say that the Link service was one of the most helpful tools in my transition to university life. I understand that in some way an Oxford/Central bus route would replace the Link, however its other stops in between the two areas as well as the path through to Kerrytown are just as important to student transportation.

Not only is the route convenient for educational purposes (getting to class on time, finding a ride to the library, etc), but in terms of finding safe ways to get home at night, the Link provides safety and security to a large amount of students on central campus, not just those who are housed in Oxford. The University of Michigan has always strived to continue to keep campus safe for students whether its Blue Light phones, extensive lamp posts, DPS late night services, emergency alert emails, etc. It would be more than foolish to perform such a disservice to students and other nearby residents by removing a critical tool to their safety and security in Ann Arbor.

I truly hope you reconsider this proposal to rescind the Link service.

If the Ann Arbor Transit Authority is truly a public service operation that strives to offer quality and dependable service to the greater Ann Arbor-Ypsilanti area, you are turning your back on an enormous amount of this demographic by neglecting to properly serve the tens of thousands of University of Michigan students and other Ann Arbor residents who utilize the Link service.

Thank You,  
Frank Moran

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Hello,

The Link is the only bus that can take me directly from home to work.

If service is canceled, I will be forced to drive to work or transfer buses. I strongly encourage AATA to preserve Link service.

Thanks,  
Joshua Carp

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Dear AATA,

I just heard that you're planning to discontinue the Link. Please don't.

Without the Link, it would be hard for me to commute to campus from my apartment in Kerrytown.

Without the Link, I wouldn't have a safe way to get home after a late night studying on campus.

The Link helps me to live in Ann Arbor without a car, especially when I want to do late-night things or get to campus quickly. The Link helps me get around in winter, especially when the sidewalks are icy and dangerous.

Sincerely,  
Vera Sacharin

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Dear AATA,

I just heard that you're planning to discontinue the Link. Please don't.

Without the Link, it would be hard for me to commute to campus from:  
my house in Kerrytown to East Hall, where my office is located.

Without the Link, I would be less likely to:  
shop in Kerrytown, shop downtown, shop at the Farmers' Market, shop on South U, use the public library, use the post office

Without the Link, I wouldn't have a safe way to get home after a late night:  
studying on campus  
dining or clubbing downtown  
attending a performance at Hill Auditorium or the Power Center  
attending Friday night services at Hillel

The Link helps me to live in Ann Arbor without a car, especially when I want to do late-night things or get to campus quickly. The Link helps me get around in winter, especially when the sidewalks are icy and dangerous. As a member of the Ann Arbor community, the Link encourages me to shop farther from where I live.

Plus the purple ones are really pretty.

Sincerely,  
Mary Liu

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Dear AATA,

I recently heard that you're planning to discontinue the Link, as a resident of Ann Arbor I would like to tell you please don't.

Without the Link, I would be less likely to frequent local businesses in Kerrytown and Main Street areas.

Without the Link, I wouldn't have a safe way to get home after a late night:  
studying on campus or dining downtown.

The Link helps me to live in Ann Arbor without a car, especially when I want to do late-night things or get to campus quickly. The Link helps me get around in winter, especially when the sidewalks are icy and dangerous. As a member of the Ann Arbor community, the Link encourages me to shop farther from where I live.

Sincerely,  
Emily Mocerri

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I'm downtown almost every day and have never used one of those buses. Most of the time they're completely empty. It's so depressing to see that when people are struggling -- public entities should make cuts like everyone else has to, and this is an obvious one. While you're at it, use the smaller buses on less-traveled routes to save gas.

Jim Manheim

Dear AATA,

I just heard that you're planning to discontinue the Link. Please don't.

Without the Link, it would be hard for me to commute to campus from:  
my house/apartment in Kerrytown/on the West Side, my dorm, my frat

Without the Link, I would be less likely to:  
shop in Kerrytown, shop downtown, shop at the Farmers' Market, shop on South U, use the public library, use the post office

Without the Link, I wouldn't have a safe way to get home after a late night:  
studying on campus  
dining or clubbing downtown  
attending a performance at Hill Auditorium or the Power Center  
attending Friday night services at Hillel  
partying at the frats on Hill

The Link helps me to live in Ann Arbor without a car, especially when I want to do late-night things or get to campus quickly. The Link helps me get around in winter, especially when the sidewalks are icy and dangerous. As a person living with a disability, the Link is how I "link" between AATA and campus bus service. As a member of the Ann Arbor community, the Link encourages me to shop farther from where I live.

Plus the purple ones are really pretty.

Sincerely,  
Diana Betz

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Dear AATA,

I just heard that you're planning to discontinue the Link, which would be a terrible loss for the residents of Ann Arbor.

Without the Link, it would be hard for me to commute to campus from my apartment on the West Side, especially during rainy days and snowy weather when I don't want my clothes looking a mess before standing in front of a room of students, teaching. More importantly, without the Link, I wouldn't have a safe way to get home after a late night studying on campus or after attending a performance at Hill Auditorium or the Power Center.

The Link helps me to live in Ann Arbor without a car, especially when I want to do late-night things or get to campus quickly. The Link helps me get around in winter, especially when the sidewalks are icy and dangerous.

Please reconsider discontinuing the Link.

Sincerely,  
Diana Mankowski

Dear AATA,

I like the link, and I think that in principle it is a good idea. The spoke/hub model of bus service works well for people commuting into Ann Arbor, but to get from Blake to the University is a hassle. Also, the link encourages students to live beyond the immediate area of the University, probably making housing more affordable.

This said, I also think that there may be some problems with the Link route as currently defined. I live in Kerrytown and directly benefit from the current route, but it does seem inefficient and underused. Perhaps it would be possible to shorten the route by

i.) keeping the oxford portion

but ii.) having the Link terminate at Blake so it connects with other busses or

iii.) organizing some sort of cost sharing service between the university and aata to reduce costs for aata

iv.) making sure that both the link and the UM Oxford shuttle loop central campus, with an effort to coordinate schedules

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Dear AATA,

I just heard that you're planning to discontinue the Link. Please don't.

Without the Link, it would be hard for me to commute to campus from my house to Kerrytown and to the East side of Central Campus.

Without the Link, I would be less likely to shop in Kerrytown.

Without the Link, I wouldn't have a safe way to get home after a late night on Main Street or Liberty Street.

Without the Link, I wouldn't have a quick and easy way to get to class in the morning.

The Link helps me to live in Ann Arbor without a car, especially when I want to do late-night things or get to campus quickly. The Link helps me get around in winter, especially when the sidewalks are icy and dangerous. As a member of the Ann Arbor community, the Link encourages me to shop farther from where I live. If anything, you should be extending service later into the evening, on the weekends and make the route larger!

Most importantly, as Executive Director of the Michigan Pops Orchestra, the Link helps University students get to our concerts at the Michigan Theater (you should come-November 22 at 7pm!). The Link therefore promotes students to support University groups like mine!

Please reconsider this proposed decision and continue to make my experience at Michigan great. We all know that the UMichigan bus system isn't the best, so why should the Link be discontinued? As you can see from above, there is no good answer to that question.

Sincerely,  
Eliezah Dale

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This route is essential for many students, especially in the winter months. Please do not cancel it!  
Caitlin Gdowski

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Dear AATA,

University of Michigan tuition increases (highest in the state), U of M President pay raise, possible loss of the 'Michigan Promise' and now the safety of my daughter? What other obstacles are in store for parents of college bound children?

As a educator for the past 20 in the great state of Michigan, I have come to resign to the fact that professional pay raises are out of the question and on hold for the time being and budget cuts are a general part of each school year. Sacrifices are necessary for all parties involved when it comes to the business of educating our children. Professionally, I understand and accept that as part today's educational financial crisis. With that said, I'm not only shocked regarding the President of U of M **ACCEPTING** a 4% pay raise in mist of an economic recession, but also on how the University of Michigan want to compromise the **safety** of my daughter as she embarks in her second year at U of M! It seems that U of M is losing site of its' true mission . . . the students!

It has come to my understanding that the *Ann Arbor Transportation Authority* has proposed the elimination of the Link for the upcoming school year . . . a vital mode of transportation for a majority of students at U of M, including my daughter, Haley Quinlan. The Link was the **ONLY** mode of transportation for my daughter while attending her first year and will be the **ONLY** form of transportation for the 2009-2010 school year. Studying on campus, dining, attending performances at Hill Auditorium and traveling to and from her sorority house are all reasons this service **MUST** continue.

I know there are solutions for every problem and I trust the AATA will find the solution for the safety and well being of my daughter, Haley. Maybe you need to ask yourself: **What is your greatest commodity at U of M? Why does the University of Michigan exist and who do they serve? Who does the LINK provide service for?** It is these students that make the University of Michigan one of the best in the country!

The 'Elimination' of the route proposed is NOT what's best for all the students at U of M.

Sincerely,  
Phil Quinlan

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**To Whom It May Concern:**

I am writing in regards to the proposed elimination of the Link Downtown Circulator route.

This bus route is the only way I will be able to get from my off- campus apartment to my job in downtown Ann Arbor during the Fall and Winter semesters.

As a University of Michigan student, I think that having a free, convenient way to access the downtown area is an important part of the Michigan experience living in Ann Arbor. The shops, restaurants, and museums located downtown are an important part of the Ann Arbor culture and should be easily accessible to all students.

I hope that the University of Michigan and the Downtown Development Authority will seriously consider the needs of students living near campus and working downtown, and not adopt the proposal to eliminate the Link Downtown Circulator route.

Sincerely,  
Molly McKenna

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Greetings. We live in Burns Park and use the link. It is especially important to the disabled of the area. It allows one to reach the main bus station without crossing a multitude of streets. IN FACT, it keeps blind people from having to cross Washtenaw at Hill street, an EXCEPTIONALLY DANGEROUS CROSSING incidentally, and thus it is invaluable ---meaning it saves lives.

There is another good aspect of the link. It utilizes smaller sized busses. I think that these are the way of the future. I look at the larger busses having to skew out on the turns and block traffic, on streets that are smaller : run up on the curbs, and these little busses look great in comparison. The large busses are seldom full or even close to full. Why not consider this along with the very important route that the LINK makes possible, for students at the u of m? Please keep the LINK in business. Thank you.

Cordially Julian K.  
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Dear AATA,

I have just received news that there is a proposal to discontinue the Link. I think it would be a grave mistake and would place many students at a disadvantage when trying to travel across campus, especially in the winter.

I rode the link almost every day last year, and without the link it would be difficult for me to commute from my sorority house. I have limitations walking far distances because of four knee surgeries and the Link really made it possible for me to overcome this disability.

The Link also provides a safe way to get home from many places on campus, especially at night and during the winter. Many of the sidewalks are dangerous and not often shoveled. Personally, I have fallen several times when I decided to walk to class or work.

I sincerely wish the proposal will not be passed. The Link is a great route the way it was last year, please do not change it.

Best regards,  
Miranda Moncada  
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Dear AATA,

I just heard that you're planning to discontinue the Link. Please don't.

Without the Link, it would be hard for me to commute to campus from my house on South University.

Without the Link, I would be less likely to:

shop in Kerrytown, shop downtown, shop at the Farmers' Market, shop on South U, use the public library, use the post office

The Link helps me to live in Ann Arbor without a car, especially when I want to do late-night things or get to campus quickly. The Link helps me get around in winter, especially when the sidewalks are icy and dangerous.

Sincerely,  
Steven  
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Dear AATA:

I was very disappointed to learn that the Link Route may not resume operation in the end of August. We have lived in this neighborhood for 14 years. Part of the appeal of this location was the availability of bus service. This proposed change is devastating to this opportunity.

I am a homeschool mom. I try to avoid driving to downtown to go to the library, the Y and various activities at the University and the downtown area which we frequent during the day. I and other families have relied on the Link to provide bus service during the school year. The Link has served us so well as the bus service on Route 14 was taken away during the day. Now we will not have bus service to our neighborhood during the day?!!

We enjoy not parking, not driving and showing our children mass transit is a wonderful option. This past year we noticed many times The Link Bus was standing room only! Granted many of the riders are students, but I know of many seniors who were just becoming aware of the Link as an option for everyone. They were delighted to learn they did not have to drive downtown.

I urge you to reconsider your choice to stop the Link Service. If you do stop The Link, you must reconsider restoring Route 14 non-peak hour service to this area.

We moved to Ann Arbor to avoid driving following a near fatal automobile crash on US 23. Please do not take our bus service away!!!

Sincerely,  
Trudy Hughes  
Jeff Bieszki

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It has recently come to my attention that there is a proposal to get rid of the AATA's service known as "the Link." As a student at the University of Michigan who frequently uses this busing service (at least three days per week), it would be a great inconvenience to me to no longer have it as a transportation resource.

I use the Link line to go mainly from central campus to the Main St. and Kerrytown business areas as well as the AATA's downtown hub, and, especially in the winter months, would decrease my trips to these areas of Ann Arbor if the Link path was terminated.

The link will not be well-replaced by the proposed Oxford Shuttle line, for that line doesn't traverse as large an area of Ann Arbor. Please do not remove the Link from the many services offered by AATA!

Thank you,  
Amanda Caccavo

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Dear AATA,

I just heard that you're planning to discontinue the Link. Please don't.

Without the Link, it would be really hard for people to commute to and from Kerrytown to go shopping or go to the public library. It's a really safe and convenient way to get around downtown.

Also, it helps people live in Ann Arbor without a car, especially in winter.

Sincerely, Alka Khera

To Whom It May Concern,

As a University of Michigan student, a WORKING University of Michigan student, the Link has served not only myself but my friends equally.

Having lived by Oxford the past couple of years on South University Ave. and Elm St., the Link has made it possible for me to attend classes on Central Campus, come home for a lunch, and then commute to downtown Ann Arbor for work on the corner of Main St. and Huron St. on time. I have been able to effectively commute from home to class and work without the hassles of getting my work clothing sweaty on hot days and without getting extremely ill on those frigid winter days.

Discontinuing the service would make it extremely difficult for an out of state student like myself to be able to commute on an everyday basis, especially during extreme weather, which happens to be much of the school year. I do not have a car or other mode of transportation.

The other AATA buses do not run as frequently or are not nearly as efficient and convenient for me.

However, I do not stand alone. For the many students and residents who may live in the Oxford Housing area, Sigma Kappa Sorority, Evans Scholar Housing, the tens of other fraternities and sororities, and the overall student population who may live in these areas that line Hill Street, Oxford Rd., and Washtenaw Ave., they will be stranded come the school year. The Link used to serve as that exactly. It used to be the connection for these students to not only central campus but to the mystery that is downtown Ann Arbor.

I believe terminating the Link service truly will do a disservice to the University of Michigan students and the city of Ann Arbor. What once used to connect these students to the wonderful city of AA cannot be replaced by a U of M Oxford shuttle.

Thanks,  
Akhil Shah

Hello,

As a resident of Ann Arbor, I am writing to let you know how upset I am about the proposed elimination of the Link. I currently live in Kerrytown, and have used the Link as my main form of transportation to get to work and school at the University of Michigan. I am already upset that the line does not run during the summer months, as are many of my friends who work late hours on campus year-round.

Personally, I feel that the Link is the only way to safely get around town at night or during inclement weather. I also use it during the day due to the large amount of books and bags I must bring with me to work and school. In efforts to be "green," I prefer not to drive to campus, and the Link is the only way I am able to avoid this. I also know of many people with physical impairments and a general lack of free transportation who rely upon the Link to get around town.

The Link has been one of the most visible symbols of Ann Arbor's commitment to the welfare and safety of it's residents. By removing this service, you are doing to a disservice to the entire community!

I plan to attend the meeting on August 10th and I sincerely hope you rethink this proposal.

Regards,  
Samantha Montgomery



I noticed that AATA currently has a shuttle from Blake to the Amtrak station that leaves every half hour or so. This route also seems like a waste - trains do not come in every half hour.

I wrote earlier suggest possible route changes that may save money and improve service (consequently improving ridership)

Here is another idea:

Divide the Link into two routes:

One serves Oxford to UM (paid for by UM)

The other runs from UM to Blake, up Main Street to the Amtrak Station, back to Blake (along the route of the current Amtrak shuttle) and back to UM.

Alternatively, the route could go from Blake, up division to the station, down Main Street to Blake again and then loop around UM

This would allow the link to continue to run and the savings would come from consolidating these two routes together, rather than eliminating one of them. It would probably save the same amount of money.

Also, it might be a good idea to have the Link stop at Main Street.

After all, this is presumably where most of the people from south campus would want ot go.

Thank for your time  
Jesse Chandler  
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To Whom It May Concern,

This email is to urge the AATA not to discontinue the Link. As a new graduate student at the University of Michigan, the Link was one of the reasons I felt comfortable moving into my current neighborhood, knowing that I would be able to rely on the Link in order to get to campus, especially during the winter months, when the weather makes walking to campus quite difficult.

I would be a frequent user of the Link, and would be grateful if the AATA would reconsider the decision to cancel Link service. Without the Link service, I will have significantly more difficulty getting around to the places I need to go on a day to day basis.

Thank you in advance.

Best,  
Lynn Ossher  
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I endorse the decision to discontinue the Link. I've personally never taken it. Once downtown, most everything is within walking distance.

Use the money to strengthen other intracity routes.

Vivienne Armentrout  
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Dear AATA,

I just heard that you're planning to discontinue the Link. Please don't.

Without the Link, it would be hard for me to commute to campus from my house near Oxford housing.

Without the Link, I wouldn't have a safe way to get home after a late night studying on campus, dining or clubbing downtown, or partying at the frats on Hill. The Link helps me to live in Ann Arbor without a car, especially when I want to do late-night things or get to campus quickly. The Link helps me get around in winter, especially when the sidewalks are icy and dangerous. As a member of the Ann Arbor community, the Link encourages me to shop farther from where I live. Plus the purple ones are really pretty.

Sincerely,

Leanna Blanchard

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Please do not eliminate the Link. I find it a very helpful, indeed crucial, connection between North and South University at Church and downtown, in particular the area just west of Main. In the event that AATA proceeds with elimination, I urge that you consider the needs of the many of us who use the Link in designing a replacement route that efficiently connects these two areas in a similar manner, with a similar timetable (ie every 10-15 minutes).

Thank you for your hard work and excellent service,

Andy Hickner

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Hello,

The Link is the only bus that can take me directly from home to work.

If service is canceled, I will be forced to drive to work or transfer buses. I strongly encourage AATA to preserve Link service.

Thanks,

Joshua Carp

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To Whom It May Concern:

I have used the Link frequently since moving to Ann Arbor in 2006. I am appalled that the DDA has decided to discontinue funding for this route.

UM has many, many students and employees living west of downtown for whom the Link is a convenient, time- and energy-saving route to work or class.

I believe the existence of this direct route to campus reduces the demand for parking near campus and reduces the number of cars clogging downtown streets and polluting our air. I personally know students who are willing to live here without cars in part because of the availability of the Link.

Even in the absence of DDA funding, I implore you to work with UM to find a way to resume Link service between downtown and Central Campus for the fall semester.

Sincerely,

Susie Lorand

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To whom it may concern,

I am about to leave Ann Arbor after 5 years here and two degrees from the university and one of the things I will miss the most in my new town will be the utter lack of useful and affordable public transportation. Throughout my stay in Ann Arbor I have made extensive use of the bus system, to the extent that I never needed to own a car, yet still had easy access to all that the city had to offer. I usually walked to and from my work-study job, a 1.6 mile roundtrip, but in the punishing cold of Michigan winters or the humidity of its summers, I always knew that there was another option: taking the Link from practically right outside my door on Washtenaw to practically right outside my office on East Liberty. The Link was also transportation to the fresh, nutritious food available at the markets in Kerrytown (much healthier and more affordable than the meager groceries available in the immediate campus area), safe and inexpensive late-night transportation home from the bars and nightclubs on South Main, and an alternative to braving the madness of parking multiple cars downtown when my relatives came to celebrate my graduation with me. I was horrified to hear that the Link service may soon be cut when in fact I have heard nothing but praise for it from my fellow students--I have heard, in fact, many students say that they would love to see the downtown shuttle service expand to weekends and summers, because it simply makes so many activities just a little bit easier and more fun. Although I will not be around to see the outcome of this issue, I hope for the sake of all the students who will this fall be returning to the University or arriving at it for the first time that the Link will remain in service.

Yours sincerely,  
Kimberley Hoff

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To the AATA Board of Directors,

I'm very disappointed to hear about the proposal to eliminate Link service in Ann Arbor. As a graduate student without a car living in Kerrytown, I use the Link almost every day and have come to rely on it, especially coming home from night classes or in the face of ominous weather. There are a lot of people that use the Link on a regular basis that will find themselves without the ease of transport the Link provides.

Please reconsider the value of the Link to Ann Arbor residents and do not discontinue its operation.

Thank you,  
Emma Wolman

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I believe that The Link has been misconceptualized from the outset: Initially targeted toward "shopping" downtown, with limited hours & connecting only State & Main Sts via Liberty. This entirely eliminated commuters & most residents. The Kerrytown District Association lobbied (successfully) for a connection to Kerrytown, which is underserved.

In the most recent incarnation, The Link was perceived primary as student transportation, with a connection to Oxford Housing.

Since inception, service has been inconsistent, with lengthy waits. The Link can only be successful if it is useful to residents & visitors, running frequently & reliably (people often gave up after waiting, because most of the downtown is walkable in the same or lesser amount of time as waiting). Frequently, after 20+ mins, 2 buses would arrive, one behind the other.

There remains a need for quick transportation to serve crosstown travel.  
Bethany Osborne

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Dear AATA,

When I moved to Ann Arbor to start grad school last fall, I was only able to find an apartment on the west side of town, much farther from campus than I had expected. Over the course of the last year, and especially on Friday nights and in the winter months, I have come to rely on the Link to help me commute to campus during the day and access resources downtown and on the south side of campus at night.

Unlike many AATA buses -- including the 12, 13, and 18 -- the Link runs into the late evening and, as its name implies, "links" between campus and AATA service in a unique way.

While UM has pledged an Oxford-campus shuttle in lieu of the Link, this shuttle would not serve people living in Kerrytown or on the west side, or facilitate contact between southside residents and resources in downtown and north-west Ann Arbor. Not only would the elimination of the Link make my own commute more onerous, especially in winter, Kerrytown and the Farmers' market would enjoy less patronage from Ann Arborites living in other parts of the city, and car-less individuals living anywhere off campus would have a much more difficult time accessing performances and other events downtown.

In these difficult economic times, it is quite understandable that a free service like the Link should come up for reconsideration. But the Link provides essential service neither UM nor other AATA buses currently provide. Instead of cutting this free service, why not make the Link into a paid service?

When I heard a couple weeks ago, quite by chance, that AATA was planning to eliminate the Link, I created a group on facebook for Michigan students, faculty, and staff called "Save the Link!" In just the last 10 days or so, "Save the Link!" has garnered over 600 members. If AATA had announced the elimination of the Link during the academic year or advertised its decision more widely, I'm sure this already impressive number would be much greater. As it is, the membership of "Save the Link!" is its own petition: over 600 people in the UM community alone want the Link to survive. If the AATA Board of Directors would like to monitor the page, it need only create a free account at [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com) and search for "Save the Link!" I imagine membership will continue to grow over the coming days.

As I and many other students will still be out of town for the August 10 public meeting, I hope the Board will weigh letters of protest, calls to the hotline, and the membership of "Save the Link!" itself more heavily in making its decision. Any one student who attends the meeting to protest the elimination of the Link speaks for all 600.

Sincerely,  
Clara Bosak-Schroeder

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