



Public Comment on Proposed Temporary Service Suspensions

September 21, 2021

Contents

Notice & Method	2
Subject	2
Summary of Public Comments.....	2
Comments by Position	2
Comment by Method.....	2
Comments by Service.....	2
APPENDIX A – Individual Comments.....	3
Written Comments Received.....	3
Telephone, Email, and Oral Comments Recorded.....	9
APPENDIX B – Presentation Slides.....	11

Notice & Method

A public hearing was held on September 21, 2021 at 6:00 PM consistent with BCRTA policy and FTA regulation. The hearing was publicized on the BCRTA website, social media, and onboard BCRTA buses beginning September 7, 2021. Public comment was also received via telephone and webform.

The hearing began at 6:01 PM and concluded at 6:19 PM. All in attendance spoke or were provided the opportunity to speak.

Subject

This hearing was conducted to receive public comment regarding proposed temporary service suspensions to the *R2 – Oxford and Middletown*, *R4 – Hamilton & Tri-County*, and *BGo* service to the South Dayton GDRTA hub.

Summary of Public Comments

Public comment was received via webform and telephone in advance of the hearing, and orally during the public hearing. Individual comments can be found in Appendix A. Slides from the hearing can be found in Appendix B.

No comments were received in support of the proposal. In general, comments addressed the need for these services and riders' dependence on R2 and R4 in particular. Many commenters noted these services as their only means of transportation.

Other comments made suggestions to operate partial services in lieu of a full suspension, focusing on driver pay to curb the root problem, and concerns about paying for of being able to obtain BGo rides if the proposed suspensions are enacted.

A small number of BCRTA operators also expressed concerns for their daily riders.

Comments by Position	
Supporting Proposal	0
Opposing Proposal	47

Comment by Method	
Written	28
Oral	5
Email/Telephone	4

Comments by Service	
R2	20
R4	20
BGo to South Dayton	7

APPENDIX A – Individual Comments

Written Comments Received

Name	Service	Comment
Whitney Harris	R4 suspension; BGo GDRTA South Hub suspension;	<p>My dad rides the R4 when he cannot get trips on BGo. This suspension would leave him stranded. It would also leave me stranded without transportation as I ride BGo to many destinations within 3/4 of a mile of an R4 or R2 stop. I am willing to wait past my pickup window and be late vs. having no transportation at all. BCRTA is my only way around. Will BGo and BCare services also be suspended? If so, this would leave me and many others stranded without transportation and VERY VERY frustrated. I use BGo to get to/from school, work, shopping, and other destinations. I cannot ride the fixed routes because of my limited mobility (wheelchair) and disability (temperature sensitivity). I understand there are driver shortages but I have only been seriously late 2 times so far and the only time I have missed a trip is when the bus broke down. My trips have not been affected that badly because of the driver shortages. I am very thankful for BCRTA and the services it provides and that it allows me to get from point a to point b and not be stranded without a way to get to my destination. I'm willing to work with the board (if that is allowed) to find a better solution. My dad will be angry to hear about the R4 being suspended as well. Thank you for hearing my thoughts.</p> <p>-Whitney Harris</p>
Whitney Harris	R4 suspension; R2 suspension; BGo GDRTA South Hub suspension;	<p>If ADA services in these areas are suspended, there are many people who may not be able to afford to pay the \$5 fare each way and thus will be left without transportation. I suggest that if these cuts are made, BGO should be made free for all just like the fixed routes. Also the BGO cuts may negatively effect those needing to get to and from Dayton. I suggest if you must cut R2 and R4 services, BGo should be made free for all, if possible, so that hundreds, if not thousands of people in this county are not left without transportation.</p> <p>-Whitney Harris</p>
Whitney Harris	R4 suspension; R2 suspension; BGo GDRTA South Hub suspension;	<p>I'm wondering if you have a plan for the fact that the suspension clogs up BGo even more than it already is. Even with more drivers, people might not be able to get trips and therefore would be left stranded and frustrated because they do not have transportation. Will those that currently use ADA services still be able to be accommodated if they cannot afford to pay the fare. Will those who use ADA services still be able to be accommodated on BGo during the suspension. Will there be any other cuts/suspensions to the BGo service? Will the fares change at all? Will it be any harder to get trips? Will the process for making trip</p>

Name	Service	Comment
		<p>reservations change? All this and more should be taken into consideration when pondering the suspension and its positive and negative effects on the community. -Whitney Harris</p>
Sandra	R4 suspension;	<p>I drive this route 6:00am shift and there are several people that ride my bus everyday that would have no way of getting to work or school without this R4 route plz reconsider Thank You.</p>
Jeff	R2 suspension;	<p>Instead of dropping R2 completely, what about just keeping the first two and last two round-trips of each day that Miami Univ. has classes?</p>
Jennifer	R4 suspension;	<p>Without the r4 my son would not be able to attend Miami University as not every college student drives and he is dependent on the BCRTA to get back and forth to Miami University. I work during the day and he utilizes this bus to transport him from the Forest Park park and ride and transfer to the r3. If this bus was no longer in service there is no way I would be able to get him to the Fairfield Crossings to catch the r3 in time in between putting my younger child on her k-12 bus and my working hours. There are times where my son gets off at a different stop and can walk home but only because the r4 comes to Forest Park. The Forest Park park and ride is also a central location for the Hamilton County metro bus which allows kids from other areas to meet the r3 to catch to Miami University not to mention the workers that I see utilize this bus as well.</p>
Daniel Behnke	R2 suspension;	<p>I have been riding the R2 to get back and forth to work for over the past 8 years. For me personally, riding the R2 saves time, is safer than driving, saves on gas, saves mileage on my car, and reduces pollution in the long run. I enjoy riding with Miami students, staff members, faculty, and other riders who commute back and forth to work. I forwarded this link to a student who has no other option to get back and forth from Middletown to Oxford, and suspending this route would be devastating. I understand that Covid has decreased ridership, but I am just starting to see an uptick in people who rely on this route. I would not rely on the driver to keep count on ridership, especially since card readers are no longer being used. On Wednesday, September 8th on the 4:30 trip from Oxford to Middletown, I counted at least 9 riders on the bus starting out, and picking up an additional four riders along the way, and the driver did not "punch in" to keep track of a majority of the riders. Riding the R2 is safer than driving. In my ten years so far commuting between Dayton and Oxford, I have witnessed a fatality on 73 at Jacksonburg road, my daughter wrecked her car while commuting, and I was rear ended at the intersection of 73 and 127 before I discovered</p>

Name	Service	Comment
		<p>the R2 route.</p> <p>I firmly believe that if more people knew about this route, there would be an increase in ridership, and I also believe some people are hesitant to ride the bus due to the upsurge in Covid variants. In this day and age, we need to promote public transportation for the sake of the environment and safety of our population. Reducing routes is a step in the wrong direction.</p> <p>Thank you for giving me this platform to share my thoughts.</p>
Caitlin Barr	R2 suspension;	Please do not suspend the R2 route. It is my only source of transportation from Miami Middletown to Miami Oxford.
Anonymo us	R4 suspension;	<p>I feel that suspending this route will leave ALOT of your customers facing hardships due to the route going primarily threw poverty area and not having the means to make other arrangements or afford BGo. Some points of interest is housing projects, Ohio means jobs which helps the community people develop job skills and placement, Adult Probation & Parole, Rehabilitation services and many more. Please consider what is good for the people of Butler County as well as your company.</p>
N/a	R2 suspension;R 4 suspension;B Go GDRTA South Hub suspension;	You should really think about what you are doing its going to affect alot of people not every one can afford 5 dollar trip. It seems to me you are try to make more money since you don't charge for routes. I for one will not use your services anymore and I bet you will loose more costumers and driver's..
NA	R4 suspension;	I feel the R4 is a very crucial route. It serves those that need to go to grocery, probation, Labor works, and Ohio means jobs just to list a few very important places. It serves a lot of people that are less fortunate, which many can not afford to pay for Bgo
laura jones	R4 suspension;	The r4 is a bus that is used daily by me and my family for crucial appoinments and life functions. This is our only means of transportation at this time during this time of financial hardship. Without this route itll make it most impossible to maintain employment among apoinments.
Tim wiesman	R4 suspension;	R4 services a big area going to cause a lot Of angry passengers. Would it be better to Suspend one of the R1 routes.You still maintain service to middletown and R4 service area.
Rob G	R2 suspension;R 4 suspension;B Go GDRTA	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Has BCRTA performed a wage analysis of current staff wages? 2. If so, does the wage analysis focus on driver wages only? 3. Does it focus on other position's wages, i.e. upper/executive management? 4. If you intend on increasing the executive teams wages, is this needed considering the current staff level looks to be full per your web page?

Name	Service	Comment
	South Hub suspension;	5. Please consider further spending on management and spend the money where it is needed to provide quality transportation to your community. Increase the driver package to attract and retain talent.
Jack Howarth	R2 suspension;	Of the three services under consideration for suspension, the R2 route is the most important to retain as many students and staff shuttle between the Oxford and Middletown campuses during the workday. I would also note that full effect of the termination of pandemic unemployment benefits on workers seeking employment has only started to manifest itself and should help with finding drivers in the near future.
Phoenicia Gibbs	R2 suspension;	My daughter relies on this transport to get to class in oxford twice a week. I am a hospice nurse and it is not possible for me to take her to oxford for classes. I'm sure there is other kids needing this transportation as well.
Benjamin Waas	R2 suspension;	<p>My name is Benjamin Waas and I am a 21 year old regional student at Miami University who relies on the R2 and R3 bus routes to get between the Oxford and Regional campuses for my education. This is my personal statement regarding the suspension of the bus routes.</p> <p>I am dependent upon the bus entirely because I am unable to drive due to PTSD related issues. I don't know anybody who could transport me between campuses for my classes. I cannot afford taking another transportation service such as Lyft or Uber. If the R2 line is suspended, I would not be able to get to my classes, and would certainly be dismissed from the university on account of constant and repeated absence. In other words, if the R2 bus route is no longer in service for any amount of time, my education will greatly suffer. In the past, I have struggled with severe mental health issues including but not limited to depression, panic disorder, and a history of suicidal issues, any of which may worsen significantly with being unable to get to my classes and being dropped from my education. I know this because in the past there was an issue that required me to drop my classes for a semester, and the effect that had on my mental health was so drastic that I was hospitalized for an extended amount of time for it.</p> <p>I have ridden the R2 bus with other Miami University students and staff, and other members of the community of Middletown, and know their lives would also be tremendously affected in their own ways if they were unable to get between campuses or other stops. I worry not just about myself, but the others that need the bus lines too, even if I don't know the full extent of their personal stories. Everybody that rides the bus rides it for a reason, and no reason is too small.</p>

Name	Service	Comment
		<p>I understand there may be issues with staffing shortages or rider counts of some sort, but I implore you to please consider doing all you can to keep the bus lines in service. Something like suspending a bus line, even only temporarily, may seem small and simple in the grand scheme of things, but something so small and simple has a tremendous and important impact on real lives in our communities. Each person that rides the bus is life that impacts other lives, which then go on to impact other lives, like a big ripple effect. I want nothing more than for this ripple effect - that the bus routes and their transportation are at the center of, in this case - to continue to be positive rather than seeing it turn into a ripple of worry and anxiety for me and the other riders and drivers of the bus.</p> <p>Thank you very much for your time and consideration.</p>
Ernest Pyle	R4 suspension;	<p>Good morning, my name is Ernest Pyle and I am writing about news of the possible shutdown of the R4. I hope that you decide to keep the R4 in service as it is a vital route to me and many other people. Thank you. Ernest</p>
Stephen Flower	R4 suspension;	<p>Like so many others I'm hoping you don't suspend R4 (Tri-County Shuttle). Because I lost my car in a not my fault accident BCRTA has been a godsend. I take it from Fairfield to Forest Park to visit my elderly mother and help her out. Jodie and Sandra have been great and very helpful. A big thanks to BCRTA !</p>
Brooke	R2 suspension;	<p>Several college students that do not have a way of getting to Oxford use this bus.</p>
Brittany watkins	R2 suspension;	<p>If u guys toke the re away I will lose my transportation to get back and forth to and from work and not have a what to get my kids to the Dr and i dnt think that is far to us</p>
Mark Fisher	R2 suspension;	<p>Please consider having at least one round in the morning and one at the end of the. That way you won't leave your R2 customers completely without service. Please don't do this to us. We count on public transportation.</p>
Van Le	R2 suspension;	<p>I am a Miami University student and I ride the R2 shuttle from Miami Middletown to Miami Oxford all the time. The R2 Shuttle is my a sole transportation I can get it. And other students are the same my status. How do we go to there and backwards without R2 Shuttle???</p>
Pamela Tuttle	R4 suspension;	<p>I need this bus for work. Please don't suspend it. I am willing to pay a bus fair again if you keep it.</p>
Wanda Chapman	R4 suspension;	<p>Takes the R3 to Fairfield Crossing to catch R4. She desperately needs those routes to get to work.</p>
Joseph Zianno	R2 suspension;	<p>I find it very disheartening that the BCRTA would consider shutting down bussing routes. I personally am a student at Miami university. I rely on the R2 bus route to get me to and from the Middletown campus</p>

Name	Service	Comment
		to the Oxford campus. I am understanding that the cuts would be to alleviate stress from the staffing shortages. However, many of us students have already made our plans for the semester. I beg of you, please do not cut these lines. Students rely on these bus routes so that they can be academically successful.
Rob Griffin	R2 suspension;R 4 suspension;B Go GDRTA South Hub suspension;	I see this as a retention issue and not a recruitment or staff shortage issue. Your staffing levels were much higher during the peak of the crisis last year. Retention is squarely on the shoulders of management and this management/executive team has failed. You have a \$1,100,000 unrestricted balance and has been for quite some time, and not to have the foresight to use that money to attract and retain staff is an organizational failure not a problem of the talent pool. It will be a travesty if more management is hired and higher wages are given to the current management team. Be a good steward of public money, be fiscally and organizationally responsible. To provide medical benefits almost 8 years after the Affordable Care Act was enacted should be shameful and not celebrated like front page news as it is on your website. Fix the front line staffing issue and do the right thing, don't hide behind your staffing without taking responsibility, this is an attempt to slide pay increases through for a subpar management team, I hope the Board of Trustees see through this. Accountability starts with the highest level down, own it.
Jodie	R4 suspension;	Another suggestion would be reducing the hours for instance running the R4 11-7 which is our busiest time for this route. Reduce R6 hours by stopping at 830. Making it a split shift. Also consider only running one R1 at a time that way to free up another staff member but no routes are cancelled all together and preventing a service for Butler County that is needed.

Telephone, Email, and Oral Comments Recorded

Name	Service	Comment
Harmony Manustd	R4	Please keep the R4. Lots of Family and friends use the service for shopping, work and dr. appointments
Nico Kinder	Was worried about the cuts in BGo.	Please don't make any cuts
Jodie Roy	R4	Suggested time changes for the R4 – only operate from 11 am – 6:00 pm. This is peak riding times.
Miami University Student	R2	MUM students rely on the R2 to get to the main campus. Parking permits are \$100 per semester which is very expensive for a student.
Brittany Watkins	R2	Uses the R2 to get to work, drop kids off at school and sometimes dr. appointments.
Chris Dennis	R2	Works at Wal-mart, single dad and this is the only way to provide for his family

Name	Service	Comment
Rob Griffin	Unidentified	Just suggested we focus more on driver recruitment and less on Management positions. Suggested we use more overtime.
Dan Behnke – Works at MU Oxford	R2	Drives to Middletown from Dayton to catch the R2 to work. Loves the service and feels with more marketing it could be a well utilized route. Has ben using the service for 6-7 years.
Jodie Roy – Vehicle Operator	R4	Advocated for keeping the R4 – says that there is a lot of riders that depend on us for work and school, to go to Jungle Jim’s, The R4 is used to make other route connections.

APPENDIX B – Presentation Slides.



Butler County Regional Transit Authority BCRTA



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PLEASE NOTE:
Today's hearing will be recorded.

Agenda

1. Rules & Procedures for this Public Hearing
2. Outcomes of this Public Hearing
3. Subject of this Public Hearing
4. Overview of Proposed Temporary Service Suspensions
5. Opportunity for Comment
6. Adjourn

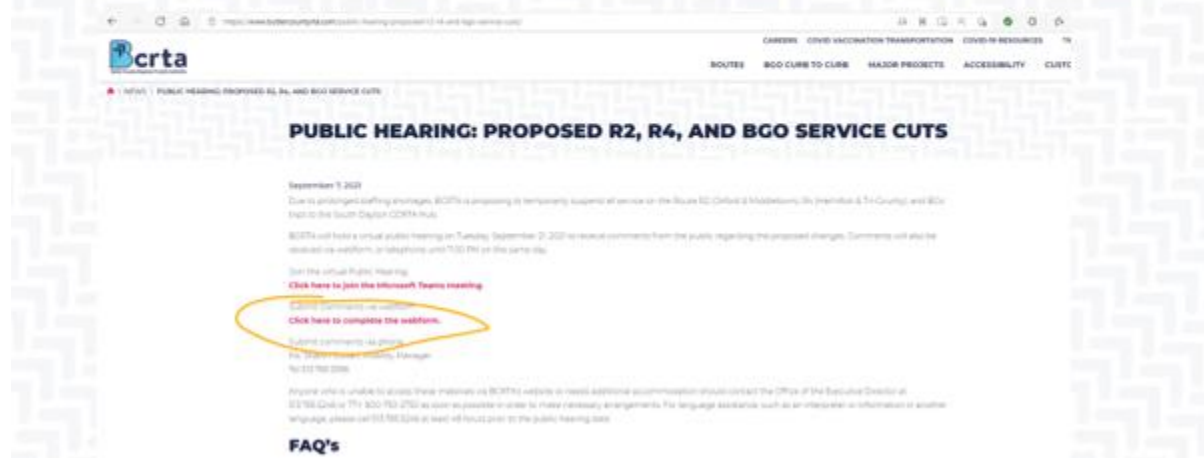


Rules & Procedures

1. Speakers must identify themselves and clearly state the hearing subject item(s) they wish to address.
2. Speakers will be given three (3) minutes to speak and the BCRTA will make no response or reply to the speaker. Speakers are encouraged to put their thoughts in writing and submit a copy to the BCRTA for inclusion in the minutes (cowans@butlercountyrta.com).
3. Any individual or group may be heard concerning the subject of this hearing. Questions are to be directed to the BCRTA as a whole and may not be put to any individual member of the Board or the administrative staff.
4. Speakers will be directed to speak during their turn. Anyone speaking out of turn may be ejected from the hearing without notice.
5. No person shall present orally a complaint against an individual employee of the BCRTA. Such charge or complaint shall be presented to the Board in writing and shall be signed by the person(s) making the charge or complaint.

Submit Your Comments in Writing

<https://www.butlercountyrta.com/public-hearing-proposed-r2-r4-and-bgo-service-cuts/>



Outcomes of this Hearing

No decision will be made during this hearing. This hearing will be summarized, and comments made available to the BCRTA Board of Trustees and the public.

The BCRTA Board of Trustees may elect to act on the subject proposal at any future public meeting of the Board. The Board may also elect to take no action, take partial action, or delegate action to the staff and management of the BCRTA.

Subject of this Public Hearing

BCRTA proposes to temporarily suspend all service on the *R2 – Middletown & Oxford Route* and the *R4 – Hamilton & Tri-County Route* in addition to BGo service to the South Dayton GDRTA Hub.

This change is being proposed to address a staffing shortage by reducing staffing needs and reallocating resources to higher productivity services operated by BCRTA.

Productivity by Route 2021:

Route	Passengers Served per Hour	Total Trips
R1	3.25	15,998
R2	1.29	951
R4	1.79	3,668
BGo	2.07	26,767



Public Comments

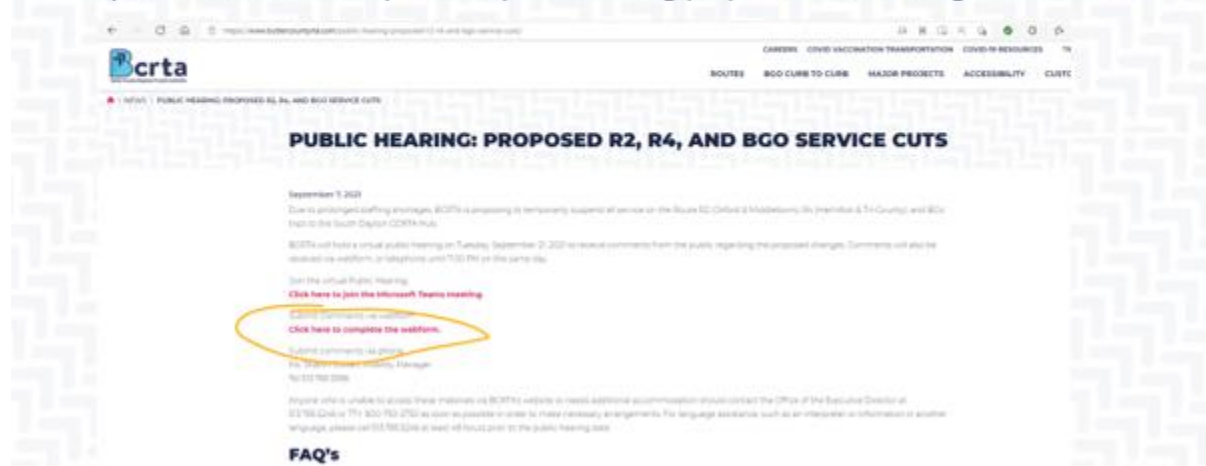
Please clearly state:

1. Your name
2. Subject of your comments:
 1. R2
 2. R4
 3. BGo to South GDRTA Hub
3. Your Comments (3 minutes)



Submit Your Comments in Writing

<https://www.butlercountyrta.com/public-hearing-proposed-r2-r4-and-bgo-service-cuts/>



**Thank you for your
comments. We value your
input and look forward to
serving you better!**



need resources?

- butlercountyrta.com
- buztrkr.com
- Transitapp.com
- [download BGO for iOS or Android](#)
- call 513.785.5237 or 1.855.44.bcrta
- request@butlercountyrta.com

The hearing has concluded.

