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Stop dropped: The Main Street Pub stop on Route 37 is being eliminated by The Rapid, resulting in frustration and disappointment for some students, including Alexandra Nykamp who uses the Main St. Pub stop regularly.

Route 37 drops Main Street Pub stop after complaints

By Lauren Fitch

GVL Staff Writer

The Route 37 Off-Campus Apartment Shuttle lost its Main Street Pub stop Monday after the landowner requested it be eliminated.

Stuart Becker, owner of the Sleep Inn, filed the request weeks ago with university operations that the stop be removed.

He said the buses are too big to operate on the driveway, and the wear and tear from the added traffic caused extra maintenance costs.

Grand Valley State University could do little to prevent the move, and neither could Main Street Pub, since it does not own the land on which it sits.

"Unfortunately it wasn't our decision to make," said Erin Babson, operations manager for GVSU. "We would have loved to keep it."

When the stop was first added to Route 37, both businesses were onboard, Babson said. Operations management knew

the stop helped passengers connect more directly with businesses in that area.

But that changed during the course of the semester. Becker, who has occupied the land for about 10 years, had the final say since the driveway is privately owned and maintained.

Operations management decided a week ago to cut the stop from the route and has since printed new maps and

schedules and notified bus drivers and students of the change.

Removing this stop saved time on Route 37, but not enough to add another

stop in its place, leaving students to walk to the next closest stops at Burger King or Boltwood Apartments.

Conifer Creek Townhomes is the nearest apartment complex to the cancelled stop, and the change has impacted its residents by adding time to their daily commute to campus.

GVSU sophomore and

Conifer Creek resident Paul Zielinski said the change is an inconvenience for him because now he must cross Lake Michigan Drive to get home.

Operations management hopes this change does not reflect negatively on the bus system.

"A lot of students are upset, but I hope they continue to ride," Babson said.

She has coordinated the bus routes for the past four years and has seen student use of the buses increase heavily. Currently, The Rapid extends about 19,400 rides to GVSU students per day.

The addition of a new bus to Route 50 Campus Connector has helped to alleviate overcrowding on that route, especially since it runs evenings and weekends as well as day routes.

In the future, Babson hopes to see more streamlining of the bus system, with creative additions to the routes to compensate for budget restrictions.

Extended weekend hours are one of their goals, though the Campus Connector's times will stay the same, she said.

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