



April 20, 2007

Ald. Robert J. Bauman
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City Work Ban Proposed For State Street Bridge Contractor

Ald. Bob Bauman wants a five-year ban on any city public works contracts for Zenith Tech, the embattled firm handling the sluggish State St. bridge reconstruction project.

Legislation sponsored by Ald. Bauman, who represents nearly all of downtown and the area that includes the State St. bridge over the Milwaukee River, would impose a five-year city work ban on Zenith Tech. The Common Council's Public Works Committee will hear the measure at 9 a.m. on Wednesday, April 25 in room 301-B at City Hall.

Ald. Bauman, chair of the Public Works Committee, said Zenith Tech has acknowledged that its steel supplier failed to give critical State St. bridge girder orders the appropriate priority, causing delays of several months and boosting the project more than \$3 million into the red and six months behind schedule. "As a city we shouldn't reward Zenith Tech's mismanagement in any way in the near future," he said.

"If they can't deliver on their promises and if they're going to treat such a critical transportation infrastructure project affecting so many businesses, events and residents like some poor stepchild, then I think they've earned a five-year ban," Ald. Bauman said.

The alderman's legislative file states that Zenith Tech's "mismanagement" of the project has been the cause of the project's delays, and it describes the delay as causing "undue economic hardships for businesses located directly west of the bridge and unnecessary inconvenience for patrons of the Marcus Center for the Performing Arts."

City officials have said it's unlikely the bridge will fully reopen until at least August 15, 2007, Ald. Bauman said.

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