July 16, 2001

To the Honorable
Public Improvements Committee

Subject: W. Wisconsin Avenue Streetscape
                North 2nd Street to North 4th Street

Dear Honorable Members:

Funding has been made available to the City through the Wisconsin Department of Transportation under the Federal Congestion Mitigation/Air Quality Program to develop primary pedestrian corridors in the Milwaukee Central Business District.   The purpose of this project is to promote walking in the Downtown area as an alternative means of transportation, and would be accomplished through the implementation of improvements to walkways and the pedestrian environment in general.

The pedestrian corridors would be implemented through a series of streetscape improvements on East/West Wisconsin Avenue, North Water Street and East/West Kilbourn Avenue in the Downtown area.   Preliminary design of the streetscape plan, as authorized under Common Council File Number 981733 and File Number 990806, was initiated in Fall, 2000. As part of the conceptual design process, a catalytic project which would fully deploy elements of the streetscape was included to demonstrate individual components of the streetscape, and to generate support for plan implementation.

The catalytic project will include streetscape construction and installation on West Wisconsin Avenue between North 2nd Street and North 4th Street.   The project will include elements such as sidewalk replacement and improvement, street lighting upgrades, landscaping, a wayfinding system, and other pedestrian amenities.

        We have prepared and recommend adoption of the attached resolution, which authorizes construction of this catalytic streetscape project.   This resolution also
authorizes and directs the City Comptroller to transfer funds to the project subaccount for the estimated construction costs.

                                        Very truly yours,

                                        Jeffrey S. Polenske, P.E.
                                        City Engineer

                                        Mariano A. Schifalacqua
                                        Commissioner of Public Works

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Attachments
(STLTG\3B4EF667-RWB)