

..Number

1115

..Version

ORIGINAL

..Reference

..Sponsor

MEMBER SYNOWICZ

..Title

Resolution urging the City to discontinue all further work on the Milwaukee Streetcar until the project is approved by referendum.

..Analysis

This resolution urges the Common Council to adopt a resolution discontinuing all work on the Milwaukee Streetcar project and authorizing a binding referendum on the future of the Milwaukee Streetcar. If the Milwaukee Streetcar project is rejected by voters in the referendum, this resolution urges the U.S. Congress to pass legislation that either returns remaining federal funding in the Streetcar project to the federal budget in the next budget cycle or allocates those funds to the Milwaukee County Transit System.

..Body

Whereas, On July 26, 2011, the Milwaukee Common Council adopted File Number 110372, a resolution approving the Milwaukee Streetcar, a 2.1-mile, \$64.6-million rail transit system proposed for downtown Milwaukee, and authorizing the Commissioner of Public Works to take various actions to advance this project; and

Whereas, The annual operating and maintenance costs for the Milwaukee Streetcar are estimated to be up to \$2.65 million, with only 18% of those costs being covered by farebox revenue, leaving the balance on Milwaukee taxpayers; and

Whereas, The total cost of utility relocation associated with the Streetcar project may add as much as \$70 million to the originally estimated \$64.6 million budget which could result in a 25% increase in utility costs for downtown businesses and residents or cause the project to be rendered unfeasible; and

Whereas, The Youth Council finds that City residents deserve an opportunity to vote on a referendum as to whether work on the Milwaukee Streetcar should continue; and

Whereas, The Youth Council believes that the Milwaukee Streetcar is not a prudent use of taxpayer dollars; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Youth Council of the City of Milwaukee urges the Common Council to adopt a resolution discontinuing all work on the Milwaukee Streetcar project until the project is approved by Milwaukee residents in a binding resolution; and, be it

Further Resolved, That the Youth Council further urges the Common Council to adopt a resolution authorizing a binding referendum on the future of the Milwaukee Streetcar; and, be it

Further Resolved, That if the Milwaukee Streetcar project is rejected by voters in the referendum and the City discontinues work on the project, the Youth Council urges the U.S. Congress to pass legislation that either returns remaining federal funding in the Streetcar project to the federal budget in the next budget cycle or allocates those funds to the Milwaukee County Transit System; and, be it

Further Resolved, That the City Clerk shall send a copy of this resolution to each member of the Common Council as well as Wisconsin's delegation to the U.S. Congress.

..Requestor

..Drafter

LRB145903-1

RTW

3/18/13