
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



FOR INFORMATION CALL

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Ald. Robert J. Bauman
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\$300 Million Guided Bus Plan Will Exacerbate Downtown And East Side Parking Problems *Milwaukee's Downtown Alderman Says Citizens Are Becoming More Angry*

The shortage of street parking on downtown and east side streets has been a perennial problem and will get much worse if a \$300 million guided bus system is built in Milwaukee, said Ald. Robert J. Bauman.

“Not a day goes by, that I do not get a complaint from downtown and east side residents regarding the shortage of street parking,” said Ald. Bauman. “And the shortage of parking and resident anger will get considerably worse under a \$300 million guided bus plan being advanced through the Milwaukee Common Council.

Ald. Bauman, chair of the Common Council's Public Works Committee, strongly opposes a resolution introduced in the Common Council which endorses construction of the Downtown Connector Project, a 13-mile guided bus system in downtown and near west, north and east side neighborhoods.

“It is mind boggling,” said the alderman. “What are we trying to do, drive residents from their homes and apartments by making parking as difficult as possible?”

The \$300 million project will permanently remove street parking from one or both sides of segments of Oakland Ave., Prospect Ave., Farwell Ave., Wisconsin Ave., Van Buren St., Jackson St., Chicago St., Kenilworth Pl., 4th St. and 3rd St., resulting in a loss of hundreds and hundreds of street parking spaces.

Ald. Bauman added: “The loss of street parking will not only affect residents but will hurt small businesses located on these streets which do not have off-street parking for their clients and customers.” The loss of street parking could be devastating to these small businesses, said Ald. Bauman. “Clients and customers with no place to park will simply take their business somewhere else.”

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Guided Bus System Creates Parking Problems/ADD ONE

In addition to his concerns over the loss of needed parking spaces, Ald. Bauman has criticized other purported benefits of the guided bus system, calling the project a “boondoogle” that simply replaces existing bus service, that will not improve mobility and access to jobs for low-income and minority residents who do not own automobiles and that will not operate in ice and snow.

The Council resolution endorsing the connector project guided bus system is scheduled to be heard at the April 27th meeting of the Council’s Steering & Rules Committee.

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