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Ald. Robert Bauman  
(414) 286-3774

## City Panel To Look At Pothole Repair Policies, Sinking Manholes

*Public Works Committee Will Hear About Repair Calls, Response Times And Staffing*

The City of Milwaukee's plans for addressing potholes will be discussed by the Common Council's Public Works Committee tomorrow, the committee's chair, Ald. Bob Bauman said today.

**The committee will meet at 9 a.m. tomorrow (Thursday, February 19, 2009) in room 301-B at City Hall, 200 E. Wells St. Media coverage is welcome.**

"The nature of Wisconsin winter – coupled with some extreme freeze and thaw temperatures – consistently makes for perfect pothole conditions, unfortunately," Ald. Bauman said.

"But we need to make sure we're doing everything we can to stay on top of things, and that's what we'll be looking at," he said. "We charged the Department of Public Works to find new ways to handle these issues and deal with increasing costs, staffing needs and an extraordinary amount of call center requests as a result of last year's extreme weather conditions. Tomorrow we will hear how they managed the situation and their plans for this year's roadwork."

Ald. Bauman said the committee will also be discussing the issue of sinking manholes in the city and the problems they create. "It is important as we consider new funds coming into the city for infrastructure improvements that we recognize when to be fixing old problems and when to be investing in new solutions," Ald. Bauman said.

Though the stimulus package does provide communities with infrastructure funding, Ald. Bauman said, it appears little of that money will go toward local road reconstruction or maintenance. "President Obama has even recently called attention to both high speed rail and other alternative infrastructure improvements, saying 'We should be using this money to help spur this kind of innovative thinking when it comes to transportation.' Tomorrow's hearing is a place for us to be innovative and open the discussion to the potential for new ideas, new solutions."