



AT&T Wisconsin  
722 N. Broadway  
Milwaukee, WI 53202

July 13, 2011

City of Milwaukee  
City Hall  
200 East Wells Street  
Milwaukee, WI 53202

**STEERING AND RULES COMMITTEE**

**ALD. WILLIE L. HINES, Jr., CHAIR**

**Ald. Michael J. Murphy, Vice-Chair**

**Ald. Joe Davis, Sr., Ald. Ashanti Hamilton, Ald. James**

**Witkowiak, Ald. Robert Bauman, Ald. Robert Donovan, and Ald. James Bohl, Jr.**

**Re: File No. 110372, Substitute resolution approving Milwaukee Streetcar project, as described in the Draft Environmental Assessment.**

Dear Members of Steering and Rules Committee:

We are writing on behalf of AT&T Wisconsin to raise serious concerns relating to the route of the planned Milwaukee Streetcar project up for your consideration tomorrow, July 14, 2011. I want to stress that AT&T Wisconsin has no objection to the idea of a Milwaukee Streetcar project itself. In fact, AT&T Wisconsin believes that its concerns can be addressed by a simple rerouting of the Streetcar away from Broadway, an idea that recently has been reported to have support among others and may well better serve the purpose of the project, i.e., to stimulate jobs and investment.

Specifically, AT&T Wisconsin is concerned that the Streetcar's use of Broadway, where significant AT&T Wisconsin and other utility facilities are located, will add significant utility relocation costs (running into the tens of millions of dollar) and time (approximately two years) to complete the project. The proposed plan, as described in the Environmental Assessment, fails to account for these added project costs and the additional time it would take to relocate utility facilities running under Broadway.

Indeed, the use of Broadway in the Streetcar route would result in an unprecedented utility relocation project. The conduit under Broadway houses the City's main hub of telecommunications facilities. AT&T Wisconsin's largest Central Office -- serving thousands of Milwaukee residential customers and downtown businesses -- is located at 722 North Broadway. AT&T Wisconsin's Broadway Central Office is literally the nerve center from which it provides telecommunications service to downtown business, hotels, restaurants, etc. The Broadway Central Office is the oldest, largest, and most important communications office in the State. Not only does AT&T Wisconsin use the Broadway office to serve downtown Milwaukee, but it is critical to service throughout the southeast



Wisconsin calling area (called a LATA). All telecommunications that travel to and from southeast Wisconsin to other calling areas (i.e., other LATAs) must be switched through the Broadway Central Office. In fact, other telecommunications carriers also rely on the Broadway office to complete their phone and Internet-bound traffic in Milwaukee and throughout southeast Wisconsin. Accordingly, the Broadway office is critical to the Wisconsin communications network. Extensive facilities of not only AT&T Wisconsin but also numerous other carriers converge on Broadway, and they do so through the conduit and manholes located on and under Broadway.

An extensive amount of the manhole access and telecommunications conduit under Broadway would need to be relocated because of the proposed route of the Streetcar project. We have not seen final plans of the Milwaukee Streetcar project. However, based on the information we have seen to date, AT&T Wisconsin's engineers have concluded that the project would require relocation of ten AT&T Wisconsin manholes, and conduit and facilities at several locations on the project route, but most extensively in the area of AT&T's Broadway Central Office. The work associated with these relocations is significant and time consuming. For example, the relocations at Broadway would require AT&T Wisconsin to move approximately the existing large Central Office manholes at Broadway and Mason Street and at Broadway and Wisconsin Avenue. The manholes would need to be moved because the current design of the Streetcar project would prevent access to these manholes, while the DC current would have a corrosive impact on the hardware. The move of the manholes would then require extending underground conduit to connect the Broadway Central Office to the telecommunications facilities housed in the manholes – facilities which then go on to serve customers throughout Milwaukee. There are extensive copper and fiber cables with thousands of pairs and fibers that will need to be replaced and spliced.

Based on the preliminary project designs provided to us, AT&T estimates that the cost for the relocations in the Broadway block between Mason and Wisconsin alone will be approximately \$10 million. More significant to the completion of the Streetcar project, the required relocations will take approximately 24 months to complete. The existing manholes and facilities cannot be abandoned until the new facilities are cut into service. AT&T Wisconsin estimates that it will take 9 months to construct the new manholes and conduit and place the new cables. It will then take an additional 15 months to complete splicing necessary for the new facilities to work. Part of the reason for the long splicing time is not only the sheer number of splices, but also that the manholes cannot accommodate more than two technicians at a time.

AT&T Wisconsin would certainly not be the only telecommunications utility impacted by the use of Broadway. In fact, AT&T Wisconsin leases space to ten other carriers outside the Broadway Central Office. These carriers' facilities would also need to be relocated. It is almost certain that gas, steam and electric utilities would be similarly impacted, given the extensive facilities used by other utilities that are currently located on the Broadway right of way. Thus, the utility relocation costs and added time due to the Streetcar route's use of Broadway is likely many times more extensive than the estimates we provide herein.



In conclusion, the Environmental Assessment that you are being asked to approve today does not address the unique added costs and time associated with utility relocations on Broadway. We would therefore urge you to reject the resolution approving the Streetcar project to the extent it includes Broadway until the Environmental Assessment provides detailed estimates of the costs and time associated with utility relocations on Broadway, or an alternate route is proposed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Scott T. VanderSanden".

---

Scott T. VanderSanden  
President – AT&T Wisconsin

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dextra Hadnot".

---

Dextra Hadnot  
Director Government Affairs – AT&T Wisconsin