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FOR INFORMATION CALL

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Ald. Joe Davis, Sr.
(414) 286-3787

Light Rail Infrastructure Amendment To Be Offered On Council Floor

*Ald. Davis Proposes Amendment That Focuses On Future Of
Milwaukee Transportation*

During today's Finance and Personnel Committee meeting, Ald. Joe Davis, Sr. proposed a capital improvement project to implement a long-discussed light rail system for the city. Among the arguments for the project, the alderman highlighted the joblessness in the city and the opportunity high-speed light rail would provide for job seekers. "When people have greater access to all parts of our city and even to our suburbs, they have greater access to jobs and economic opportunity," Ald. Davis said.

The amendment, which received heavy discussion from the committee, including Ald. Robert Bauman, a noted advocate of light rail in Milwaukee, will be offered on the floor of the Council on November 7, allowing for further discussion.

Light rail is something Davis has recognized as a high priority for Milwaukee through his association with the National League of Cities (NLC). "I work with the NLC across the country and in every city, in every discussion, public transportation is significantly more advanced outside the Milwaukee area. We must bring our city into the here and now and take advantage of the opportunities better transportation provides and the immediate necessity for public transportation we face."

Ald. Davis also highlighted to the committee that the bonding expense would be something the city could leverage with federal dollars. Additionally, other sources of revenue like Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds received from the Department of Housing and Urban Development could be increased with the additional

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territory and opportunity a stronger transportation infrastructure could provide. “We have to move forward in Milwaukee and look ahead five, ten, twenty years,” Ald. Davis said.

The alderman provided information from the transit study for the area that included the potential locations and routes of the rail line, noting the project also spurs development around potential station nodes, bringing additional revenue to the city. “The design and implementation of light rail doesn’t just bring Milwaukee up to par with the rest of the country or provide access to suburban communities. Light rail is a viable way to leverage federal dollars and open up the amount of development, fiscal and cultural opportunities Milwaukee deserves.” Ald. Davis said.