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ROBERT J. BAUMAN

ALDERMAN, 4TH DISTRICT

April 17, 2006

RE: Response to MMAC Letter of April 5, 2006

Dear Colleagues:

I am writing to respond to a letter from Mr. Peter Beitzel of the Metropolitan Milwaukee Association of Commerce that was circulated today. This letter mischaracterizes several of my concerns about the \$300 Million guided bus system and is factually inaccurate in several respects. While I am tempted to respond point by point, some of the highlights should suffice to establish that Mr. Beitzel's response is misleading and, in some instances, incorrect. I would be happy to discuss any specific questions you might have about Mr. Beitzel's letter.

First, I have never asserted that property taxes would be used to fund the construction of the \$300 Million guided bus system. I have asserted that the \$60 Million local share would have to be paid for from some new revenue source which, based on the Connector Study documents, includes sales taxes, car rental taxes, hotel room taxes and meal taxes among other revenue sources. It is unfortunate that Mr. Beitzel saw fit to mischaracterize my position.

Second, the guided bus system that is proposed for Milwaukee operates in only one city in the world: namely, Caen, France. This is a one wire system. The system in Nancy, France is a two wire system. There is no guided bus system in revenue service in Clermont-Ferrand. The only guided bus infrastructure in Paris is a test track where various types of guided buses have been tested. There is no regular revenue guided bus service in Paris.

Third, no regularly operated guided bus system operates in winter conditions comparable to Milwaukee. There is a substantial question about the reliability of this technology in snow and ice conditions of the type experienced in Milwaukee. The point is that no one knows if this technology will work in severe winter conditions. Do we want to be the guinea pig at a cost of \$300 Million?

Fourth, Mr. Beitzel attempts to assert that a one wire system will not present the visual clutter of a two wire system. Having personally observed both types of overhead wire systems in numerous cities, I can tell you that there is no substantial difference between a one wire and two wire system in terms of the overhead apparatus and equipment required. This assertion is ridiculous.

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Lastly, I am disappointed that Mr. Beitzel would attempt to discredit my 15 years of involvement on this issue by inferring that I only became engaged in 2004 when I proposed an alternative plan. My critique of this \$300 Million guided bus system has been solely based on my knowledge of public transit and rail systems and the best interests of Milwaukee taxpayers. I must remind all of you that Mr. Beitzel is one of the architects of the ongoing effort by the State Legislature to highjack Mitchell International Airport from the county and transfer this asset to an un-elected airport authority.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert J. Bauman". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

Robert J. Bauman
Alderman, 4th District