

X

Subject: FW: Streetcar

From: Curley, Patrick
Sent: Friday, July 08, 2011 10:23 AM
To: 'jsullivan715@yahoo.com'
Cc: Peterson, Alexis
Subject: FW: Streetcar

Thank you for your thoughtful kind personal comments.

The fact of the matter is there is over \$50 million in federal transportation funds that have been appropriated and allocated for this project. These funds, which can only be used for this project, have been designated for Milwaukee since the early 90's.

Have a nice weekend.

From: Joseph Sullivan [<mailto:jsullivan715@yahoo.com>]
Sent: Friday, July 08, 2011 9:46 AM
To: Mayor Tom Barrett
Subject: Streetcar

Barrett.....you are a clown. There is no \$\$\$\$ for anything and you want to waste \$60M ++ for a few miles of track ? No wonder you got your butt hammered last November.....pathetic person and a pathetic political party. JFS.

Mayor Tom Barrett

From: Quentin Doll [quentin.doll@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, July 11, 2011 8:11 PM
To: Mayor Tom Barrett
Subject: Milwaukee Streetcar Project

Dear Mr. Barrett,

I am writing to you in order to express my concern and objection to the proposed Milwaukee Streetcar project as currently designed. As a resident in your city directly impacted by this potential project I wish to bring to your attention the significant impact this endeavor will on our community, not all of which is desired. I have recently been made aware of this project and attended the "Town Hall" style informational meeting they held today at the Milwaukee Public Market. My main concerns are twofold. First, the entire success of this venture relies on the theory that people will actually ride the streetcar and it will spur economic development for the city. In general, mass transit will be used if it efficiently (safely, conveniently and quickly) takes people to and from **desired destinations**. The current plan lacks the funding to link the lower east side residential area with actual desired attractions, either within the greater downtown Milwaukee area or to other locations within the Milwaukee area. The majority of the proposed route lies in a residential area of the Lower East Side and all it does is connect current residential areas with each other. It should be noted that these areas are easily walkable distances apart for the most part. Almost every one of my counterparts (colleagues, friends, neighbors) expresses extreme doubt that the ridership under the current proposal will work given the lack of connection with key Milwaukee areas this initial plan proposes. True success of a project like this would require a connection with desired destinations, attractions and businesses within the city (ex. UWM, Marquette, North Ave, Water St, Walkers Point, Summerfest grounds, Miller Park, Mitchell Airport and the like). However, the project currently lacks the funding to accomplish any of this and future hopes for connection are merely pie-in-the-sky dreams for additional federal or local tax money which is less and less likely to become available given the current financial condition of both the country and this city. We are currently facing huge budget deficits at most levels of government and especially at the overall country level. Spending freezes and budget cuts are imminent and future allocations of funds seems highly unlikely. Without connections to these key destinations, ridership will be abysmal and would eventually just lead to another burden on the taxpayer (like our bus system). To add to the problem, I consistently see empty city busses on these very same routes so I'd venture to say the demand just isn't there given the limited scope of this project as currently funded. Without secure funding for connections to any highly desired Milwaukee attractions I would say this project should not go forward.

Also, the necessity to have a track on Jackson St seems like a waist of money since the same businesses can be accessed from one street over via the proposed track on Van Buren. Van Buren seems plenty capable (size and lower level of residences/more businesses) of handling both the North and Southbound tracks. Why rip apart a mainly residential road like Jackson St when the impact on the neighborhood would be minimized by restricting the routes to one street (i.e. Van Buren) instead? Jackson Street is almost entirely residential buildings (apartments and condos) who's residence rely on the scarce amount of street parking currently available. Any reduction in the currently available parking would detrimentally affect many residents. In addition, the corner of Ogden and Jackson is the main entrance to the East Point shopping center and already attracts a large amount of congestion from automobile and buss traffic. The additional confusion and congestion that would be added by a streetcar turning in that intersection would be detrimental to the neighborhood and cause additional hardship on the residence in the local apartments and condominiums. It is already difficult to walk in that area and this will only added to that struggle. At the very least, the residence of that neighborhood should be ensured that the streetcar **will only travel south on Jackson St** (from its only westward heading on Ogden between Van Buren and Ogden in the current proposal) which is the direction the current mass transit (Busses,

etc) in the area already takes. This will minimize the impact on parking and fits better with the flow of major traffic out of the neighborhood. Currently it is unclear what direction the cars will be taking on these two single track roads (although the people involved with the project today claimed there were documents online showing directionality which turns out to be a lie). I'd also like to note that I travel to Portland on a regular basis for work. Although we have taken the streetcar once in the three years I've been going there. It is routinely empty. We have, on a number of occasions, found it inefficient and it was quicker to walk to our desired destination than to wait for the next car.

My second issue surrounds the fact that the company/people disseminating information on this project claim that increased investment in Portland has occurred because of the streetcar system and Milwaukee would also benefit from it similarly. I doubt we will see similar impacts given how built up the current phase one impacted area is that the Milwaukee Streetcar will serve. What additional residences and businesses can be built in the lower east side? Where is the vacant land? We already have a glut of condos on the market from being over built. My current residence has depreciated roughly 25% in value over the last three years alone mainly due to the overdevelopment of area. Where will this additional investment come from given that the streetcar will only serve an already densely populated and heavily developed area without funding secured to attach to other areas in the city that could use additional development?

I strongly urge you to consider these points and I hope that you will come to the same conclusion I have; that although a streetcar planned properly and with the appropriate funding could benefit Milwaukee, the current proposal falls short of being prudent and has a serious risk of being extremely unsuccessful all the while unnecessarily impacting many current residence as planned. I urge you to oppose this project.

Regards,

Quentin M. Doll

601 E. Ogden Ave #602

Milwaukee, WI 53202

Mayor Tom Barrett

X From: Matthew E. Lowerr [matt@lowerr.com]
Sent: Monday, July 11, 2011 8:51 PM
To: Mayor Tom Barrett
Subject: Message from Matthew E. Lowerr regarding the Milwaukee Streetcar

Categories: Streetcar Opposition

A message from Matthew E. Lowerr (matt@lowerr.com)

1108 N. Milwaukee St. #138
Milwaukee, WI 53202

I encourage you to withhold support for the Milwaukee Streetcar.

The streetcar's proposed coverage area provides coverage already addressed by route 30 of the MCTS system, and will place little more than add an additional funding liability to the taxpayer.

Peterson, Alexis

From: ANGELA MARCHETTI [coyote-99@msn.com]
Sent: Wednesday, July 13, 2011 11:10 AM
To: Mayor Tom Barrett
Subject: Your spending

X Dear Mr. Mayor:

What give you the right.....to try spending all this money on your "rail train"???? I think issues such as these.....should be voted on by the taxpayers.....no matter what!!! We are taking losses left and right.....and YOU think this is important to us??? Well, it is NOT!

Is this why our property taxes are so high??? reflecting false assessments of the real property??? So that you can use our money however it tickles your fancy??? Well we say NO!! NO to you.

I suggest, as a concerned citizen of this city, that you look seriously around this city....and I think you may just find much more useful ways of spending this kind of money.....

SHAME on YOU and anyone who thinks this is more important than the people living and working in this community.

Angela Marchetti