
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



FOR INFORMATION CALL

July 10, 2007

Ald. Robert J. Bauman
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Council Transit Resolution Protects Interests of Milwaukee, Citizens

Adoption of Measure Wednesday Will Protect City's Interests, Alderman Says

The Common Council will take up a critically important resolution tomorrow that clearly protects the future transit interests of city residents and the city as a whole, Ald. Robert J. Bauman said.

The Council resolution – recommended for adoption by the Council's Zoning, neighborhoods and Development Committee on July 3 – pledges Council support for the Kenosha-Racine-Milwaukee (KRM) commuter rail project on adoption (by the KRM Study Group) of three provisions that relate to the KRM commuter rail service itself and the proposition that financing of the existing Milwaukee County Transit System must be shored up before new money is raised from a rental car tax to fund new commuter rail service, the alderman said.

“The three provisions are critical for Milwaukee's transit future, and our support is focused entirely on those provisions and not on the building of a regional transit system at this time,” Ald. Bauman said.

The Common Council will take up the resolution during its regular meeting at 9 a.m. tomorrow (Wednesday, July 11, 2007) in the third floor Council Chamber at City Hall, 200 E. Wells St.

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Council To Take KRM Vote/ADD ONE

The Council resolution endorses the KRM land use plan for downtown Milwaukee and a proposed Bay View station. However, that endorsement is contingent on the KRM study adopting:

- A Greenfield Avenue station stop in Walker's Point (a position specifically endorsed by the Common Council on May 30, 2007 -- file# 070242).
- A dedicated funding source for the local share of capital and operating costs for both KRM and the Milwaukee County Transit System (a position specifically endorsed by the Common Council on February 6, 2007 -- file# 3061248).
- The Mayor's Downtown Streetcar Circulator as a component of the KRM downtown Milwaukee land use plan. The KRM ridership projections are specifically contingent on a downtown Milwaukee circulator system to enable the thousands of projected daily riders to access work places, convention sites and entertainment venues in Downtown Milwaukee. In other words, a downtown circulator system is critical to the success of the KRM.

Ald. Bauman said he's confident his Council colleagues will see that the resolution is aimed at improving the KRM project and is designed to protect the interests of Milwaukee and its citizens. "I'm confident that if we take care of properly handling and advocating for the Milwaukee piece of the KRM, all of the other regional components will fall into place," he said.

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