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FOR INFORMATION CALL

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Ald. Robert J. Bauman
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\$300 Million Guided Bus System: Why The Rush to Judgment?

Alderman Bob Bauman Questions Timing of Vote on Resolution Endorsing \$300 Million Guided Bus System Before Detailed Study Reports Released

Citizens might wonder why the Common Council is being asked to vote on a resolution endorsing the \$300 million guided bus system being promoted by the Milwaukee Downtown Transit Connector Study consultants *before* the key Final Definition of Alternatives and the Draft Locally Preferred Alternative reports are released for public review.

Ald. Robert J. Bauman said the reports are scheduled for release in June and July, respectively, so why is the Council set to take up a resolution endorsing the \$300 million guided bus system within the next four weeks?

“These documents will provide up-to-date information about such issues as capital costs, operating plans and costs, station locations, environmental impacts, changes in existing bus service, ridership forecasts, economic development and financing plans,” Ald. Bauman said. “Right now, the most current information available to aldermen is more than four years old and this information is incomplete.”

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Why The Rush To \$300M Guided Bus System?/ADD ONE

Ald. Bauman continued: “How can aldermen make an informed decision without such information? The Common Council would never think of acting on a Tax Incremental Financing (TIF) proposal without detailed and current financial and project information. Yet this \$300 million project is being rushed through before detailed project and financing information is available. What is the rush?”

One possibility, Ald. Bauman said, is that promoters of the \$300 million guided bus system want to “stack the deck” before public hearings are held. Usually legislative bodies take a vote to endorse a transit plan after the Draft Locally Preferred Alternative Report is released and debated by the public, he said. “This time, the process is being reversed -- the Common Council is being asked to vote before detailed information is available and before there are any public hearings,” said Ald. Bauman, chair of the Common Council’s Public Works Committee.

The resolution endorsing the \$300 million guided bus system is scheduled for a hearing before the Common Council’s Steering and Rules Committee on April 27, 2006.