



WILLIE L. HINES, JR.



COMMON COUNCIL PRESIDENT
ALDERMAN, 15TH DISTRICT

April 17, 2006

CONNECTOR PROJECT RELEASE

More than 15 years ago, \$289 million of federal funding came to the City of Milwaukee for the purpose of planning and implementing mass transit. Unfortunately, due to years of inaction and consternation by policy makers, the resources remain unspent, while the overall value of these dollars continues to erode through non-usage.

While Milwaukee has stood on the sidelines in creating a 21st century transit for generations to come, other cities have literally passed us by. We as a city can no longer afford to fall further behind peer cities in moving people to jobs, spurring economic development and attracting young professionals.

In an effort to move the City of Milwaukee's mass transit enhancement forward, a number of Common Council members and I introduced a resolution at the March 23, 2006 meeting of the Common Council, pledging the Council's support for the next phase of the Milwaukee Connector project.

The construction of the Connector project alone promises to yield nearly \$200 million of investment capital into our city and create hundreds of jobs. When the first phase is completed, the connector will help link city residents and visitors to downtown, our universities, and to multiple other attractions. The initial lines will allow for future neighborhoods to come on line. The connector will augment existing transportation services and compliment future needs. Most importantly, the Connector will move ordinary Milwaukee citizens quickly, efficiently and cleanly. It is also significant to note that both the boards of the Wisconsin Center District and the Metropolitan Milwaukee Association of Commerce (MMAC), respectively, have endorsed the Connector project.

Other mass transit options, including light rail, have been suggested. Adoption of the Connector project does not preclude us from advancing light rail technology in the near future. Indeed, light rail and other technologies can be adopted in other phases of Milwaukee's comprehensive mass transit improvement initiative(s). The Connector project is merely the first step and should be viewed as a starter route, with other neighborhoods being added in future build-outs.

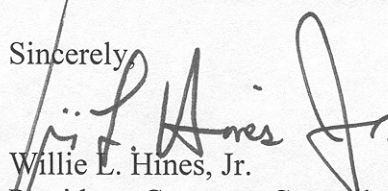
Connector Project
April 17, 2006
Page, 2

Moreover, given the limited resources at the City's disposal, the Connector project is the appropriate technology choice at this time.

There have been detractors to the Connector project, however, who have released information suggesting that it is not the most appropriate approach to improving Milwaukee's mass transit situation. As a result, I have asked Peter Beitzel, Chairman of the Milwaukee Connector Study Steering Committee, to address concerns surrounding the viability of the Connector project. I have included his comments for your review.

Moving the Milwaukee Connector project along and accessing these federal transportation dollars are critical to the future growth of our entire city.

Sincerely,



Willie L. Hines, Jr.
President, Common Council
Alderman, 15th District

WLH:tlm