



Legislation Text

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ORIGINAL

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Resolution relating to conducting a referendum on mass transit improvements on November 8, 1994.

- Analysis -

This resolution directs the placement of advisory referendum questions relating to mass transit improvements in the city of Milwaukee on the November 8, 1994, election ballot.

Whereas, A substantial number of City tax dollars and a significant amount of City staff time have already been devoted to studying the issue of developing a light rail transit system for the city of Milwaukee and surrounding communities; and

Whereas, It appears that City tax dollars and staff time will continue to be used to study the light rail issue; and

Whereas, A 1990 study by the U.S. Department of Transportation's National Transportation Systems Center found that actual light rail ridership in 4 cities (Buffalo, Pittsburgh, Portland and Sacramento) was 66 to 85 percent below forecasted levels, while capital costs of the light rail systems were 13 to 50 percent higher than originally projected; and

Whereas, Even the St. Louis light rail system, which is regarded as a success because of higher-than- projected ridership and community acceptance, is experiencing a \$10 million annual operating deficit; and

Whereas, Light rail transit cannot and will not provide the level of trip-making flexibility that other modes of transportation can offer; and

Whereas, The Wisconsin Department of Transportation's "Milwaukee East-West Corridor Transit Study" identifies the construction of a rapid busway and improvement of the existing bus-based mass transit system as transit enhancement options which could be used in place of, or in conjunction with, development of a light rail system; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, By the Common Council of the City of Milwaukee, that the Election Commission is directed to place advisory referendum questions relating to implementation of mass transit improvements in Milwaukee on the November 8, 1994, election ballot; and, be it

Further Resolved, That the referendum questions shall be worded as follows:

1. "Do you favor the construction of a light rail transit system in the city of Milwaukee?"
2. "Do you favor the construction of a rapid busway transit system in the city of Milwaukee?"
3. "Do you favor improvements to the current public bus transportation system in the city of Milwaukee?"

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