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FOR INFORMATION CALL

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Ald. Robert Bauman  
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## High Speed Rail a Win-Win-Win for Milwaukee, Region

*Alderman Says 110 mph Train Links Will Strengthen Local Economy, Help  
Create "Mega-Region"*

Milwaukeeans and the few million other residents of the region should let out a collective three cheers for Governor Jim Doyle for his leadership and vision on high speed rail in Wisconsin, according to **Alderman Robert J. Bauman**.

The alderman, a longtime proponent of mass transit, said decreasing travel times and increasing train frequencies on the current Chicago-Milwaukee Amtrak service and inaugurating 110 mph inter-city service between Milwaukee and Madison will have a dramatic, positive economic impact on Milwaukee.

"In essence, these improvements will shorten the distance between Milwaukee, Madison and the vast Chicago metropolitan area, and all three regions will become more economically integrated allowing each region to piggyback on the advantages and strengths of the others," said Alderman Bauman, who chairs the Common Council's Public Works Committee.

"These regions will form a mega-region offering a tremendous mix of commercial, educational, cultural and entertainment activities," he said.

For example, he said it will become significantly more convenient to live in Milwaukee and work or conduct business in Chicago or Madison. In particular, it will become easier and more affordable to live in Milwaukee and commute to downtown Chicago than it is to live in many Chicago suburbs and commute to downtown Chicago. "The effect on residential real estate will be positive, and I predict the housing market in downtown Milwaukee and nearby neighborhoods will experience a surge of demand," the alderman said.

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## **High Speed Rail Benefit/ADD ONE**

A high speed rail link will make it easier and quicker to travel from Chicago to the Madison campus of the University of Wisconsin than to travel from Chicago to the University of Illinois campus at Champaign-Urbana, Illinois, Alderman Bauman said. "The great educational institutions of Madison, Milwaukee and Chicago will all be closer together," he said.

Likewise, Milwaukee's cultural and entertainment venues stand to benefit from closing the distance between Milwaukee, Madison and Chicago. It will become easier and quicker to travel from Chicago and Madison to downtown Milwaukee "to enjoy dinner and a show or to visit our great museums and cultural attractions," he said.

"It will become easier and quicker to watch the Packers play the Bears at Soldier Field than at Lambeau Field," the alderman said. "Soldier Field will have many more green and gold clad fans making the trip south, and we may have to rename the stadium 'Lambeau South.'"

Last but not least, Mitchell International Airport (which is served by the Chicago-Milwaukee Amtrak route) will also stand to benefit from closing the distance between Milwaukee, Chicago and Madison. Mitchell International will be 50 minutes from downtown Chicago -- less travel time than an auto trip from downtown Chicago to O'Hare International Airport at rush hour, he said.

It is frequently said that "time is money," and Governor Doyle's high speed rail initiative will offer travel time savings to hundreds of thousands of citizens who currently travel between Milwaukee, Chicago and Madison and it will open the door for new commercial activity, job creation, population growth, and economic development in Milwaukee, Alderman Bauman said.

"This important infrastructure investment offers the potential to achieve a paradigm shift in Milwaukee's economy by placing Milwaukee in the center of the Milwaukee-Chicago-Madison region, and I believe that shift will create a buzz of development and growth like we've never seen before," he said.