
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



FOR INFORMATION CALL

December 16, 2011

Ald. Robert Bauman
Ald. James Witkowiak
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Bascule Bridge Repair News Conference

Alderman Robert J. Bauman will be joined by **Mayor Tom Barrett** and **Alderman James N. Witkowiak** during a news conference on Monday (December 19) to discuss the completion of repairs to the Water Street and Broadway Street Bascule Bridges. The news conference will take place at **2:30 p.m. Monday** at the southeast corner of E. Erie and N. Broadway Streets.

Bascule bridges have two leaves that open in the middle, and the Water Street and Broadway Street bridges needed some very precise repairs to make sure their center lock mechanisms would operate correctly – and to lessen loud and disruptive noise caused when trucks and buses traverse the spans. “When one thinks about issues that Common Council members are asked to address, ‘bridge noise’ does not quickly come to mind,” said Alderman Bauman, whose 4th Aldermanic District includes the Historic Third Ward – the area immediately to the north of the bridge.

“But this is a quality of life issue for the residents who live near the bridges, and also it’s an issue of making sure our infrastructure is working properly and being properly maintained,” said Alderman Bauman, chair of the Council’s Public Works Committee.

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Bridge Work/ADD ONE

Alderman Witkowiak said the repairs that Department of Public Works (DPW) and private crews have made to the bridges included installing parts in the center lock mechanism that significantly reduce noise and vibrations caused by trucks and buses. “The work involved some unique engineering, and residents have indicated that the ‘fix’ has greatly reduced the noise and reverberations,” said the alderman, whose 12th Aldermanic District is located south of the bridges.

DPW performs seasonal adjustments on movable bridges to ensure reliable year round operation. This fall, additional work was performed on the Water Street and Broadway Bascule bridges to reduce wear and to prolong the life of the bridges.