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Portion of trolley money should be used to protect bus riders

Statement of Alderman Bob Donovan
February 2, 2012

As a citizen and as chair of the Common Council's Public Safety Committee, it galls me to see tens of millions of taxpayer dollars going to fund the downtown trolley project, while passengers on our county buses are being stomped and assaulted because we apparently don't have any dough available to pay sheriff's deputies for bus patrols. I say let's stop the nonsense and free up some of the trolley money so we can provide for the safety and security of our bus riders!

Oh, but wait – we can't use that trolley money for ANY other purpose. HOGWASH! Congress allocated that money to begin with, and Congress can change its mind on how that money can be used. It's time for Congress to do something right for a change, and start serving and representing ALL of the people.

Furthermore, I am convinced that more than 70% of our residents do not support the downtown trolley, a project that serves a tiny route that most residents will NEVER use.

Finally, I say it is high time Congress (let alone other local officials) use some **common sense** and serve the interests of the constituents back home – by freeing up some of the “transit only” trolley money for bus security before someone gets killed.