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FOR INFORMATION CALL

November 25, 2009

Ald. Terry L. Witkowski
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Meeting to Explore Milwaukee's Intermodal Transportation Possibilities

Diverse Group to Discuss How Well Businesses Involved in Importing, Exporting are Served, Alderman Says

An exploratory meeting next week in Milwaukee will bring together a diverse array of groups looking at how they might unite and affect positive transportation changes to better serve area businesses and manufacturers who are regular importers and exporters of goods, equipment, products and supplies, said Alderman Terry L. Witkowski.

Alderman Witkowski, one of the meeting's organizers, said the group will meet at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, December 1 at the Port of Milwaukee offices, 2323 S. Lincoln Memorial Dr. Attendees expected to take part include Alderman Witkowski, Port of Milwaukee officials, Mitchell International Airport officials, representatives from the Wisconsin Motor Carriers Association, Gateway to Milwaukee officials, Milwaukee County Supervisor Christopher Larson, and representatives of private trucking and railroad companies serving metro Milwaukee.

The impetus for the meeting, according to Alderman Witkowski, is "to bring primary stakeholders together to discuss relevant issues pertaining to the use of air, water, rail and truck transportation for Milwaukee's business and industry."

"Sometimes it just makes sense to bring parties together to see if there are changes and/or improvements that are needed in our intermodal transportation system," he said. "Hopefully we'll generate discussion and ideas that we can carry forward to better serve the needs of our valuable businesses and manufacturers."

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Transportation Meeting/ADD ONE

Alderman Witkowski said the meeting will also help the 50-member Airport Area Economic Development Task Force, which has been meeting for about 18 months to outline an “Aerotropolis” structure that will maximize airport area development, including strategies for drawing both national and international companies to the area. He said one potential “intriguing” item for discussion next week will be whether to create an entity to enable easier “one-stop shopping” for import and export. “Many cities have such entities already in place, and we need to be competitive in that area,” he said.

“We’re seeing an increase in overall usage and activity at Mitchell – evidenced by a predicted ‘busiest ever’ Thanksgiving holiday – and our goal is to maximize the airport’s potential and to better utilize these modes of transportation as an economic engine for development in the state of Wisconsin,” Alderman Witkowski said.

The previously mentioned 50-member task force includes multiple representatives of state and local governments, municipal representatives from St. Francis, Cudahy, South Milwaukee, Oak Creek, Franklin, Greenfield, Greendale, and Milwaukee, and private industry and community leaders. The group is also working with the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee’s Center for Urban Initiatives and Research.