

---

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

---



---

FOR INFORMATION CALL

---

August 22, 2011

Bill Arnold  
(414) 286-3285

## Community Input – Now – Critical for Future Hoan Ped/Bike Lane

*Public meeting is tomorrow at 5 p.m. in Bay View*

Milwaukee Common Council members say a neighborhood meeting Tuesday (August 23) in Bay View regarding the possible construction of a bicycle and pedestrian lane on the Hoan Bridge will be a critical moment in the life of the project.

**Alderman Nik Kovac** said the state Department of Transportation (DOT) is currently studying the feasibility of bicycle and pedestrian accommodations on the bridge, which is scheduled for a three-year resurfacing project starting in 2013. The DOT will have representatives at the meeting, and Alderman Kovac said it's critical for residents to provide their input at Tuesday's meeting, to be held at **5 p.m. in the cafeteria room at the Beulah Brinton community center, 2555 S. Bay St.**

"The DOT will be completing its study sometime this fall, so this is a critical stage in the DOT's information gathering and outreach, and in terms of gauging public enthusiasm for the project," Alderman Kovac said. "It's also a critically important moment because once the planning for the refurbishing work is finalized, we will likely not have another opportunity during our lifetime to make the project happen."

"I thank the DOT for its willingness to listen to residents and to closely study the project," Alderman Kovac said.

**-More-**

## Hoan Path Meeting/ADD ONE

**Alderman Robert J. Bauman** said a bicycle and pedestrian lane over the two-mile stretch of the bridge, connecting downtown Milwaukee and the lakefront to Bay View, would spur economic activity and “provide another key city amenity for visitors and residents alike.”

“I believe the path will be a scenic vantage point that will provide access and draw more people to the lakefront, to downtown, to festivals, and to Bay View,” said Alderman Bauman, whose 4<sup>th</sup> District includes downtown, most of the lakefront, and the harbor area. “I also believe those people will be spending money here and adding a positive economic impact.”

A Hoan bicycle and pedestrian path would provide better connectivity to the Oak Leaf Trail and the Hank Aaron State Trail, said **Alderman Tony Zielinski**, whose 14<sup>th</sup> District includes Bay View.

“We have an excellent reputation as a top ‘bicycle friendly’ city, and thousands of residents use a bicycle as their primary mode of transportation,” said Alderman Zielinski. “The Hoan path just makes sense in terms of providing our residents, commuters, and visitors better accessibility and overall connectivity.”

Alderman Jim Witkowiak, whose 12<sup>th</sup> District includes the Walker’s Point neighborhood, said he considers a bicycle and pedestrian lane on the bridge “an investment.” “Bicycle tourism in our state is growing and generates hundreds of millions of dollars annually in economic activity,” he said. “I see this unique investment as part of the rebuilt bridge being a powerful attraction for bicycle tourists from across the region and beyond.”

Alderman Kovac, whose 3<sup>rd</sup> District includes the east side, most of Riverwest, and some of the near downtown, is an avid bicyclist. He said he is hopeful that the city’s bicycle enthusiasts and recreation supporters will make plans to attend tomorrow’s meeting. “It would certainly help bolster the idea that people want this project to be moving forward,” he said.

Tuesday’s meeting is being hosted by state Sen. Chris Larson and state Rep. Chris Sinicki.