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FOR INFORMATION CALL

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Ald. Robert J. Bauman
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Boost Investment in City Infrastructure, Alderman Bauman Urges

The City of Milwaukee should be tackling projects that will improve the core infrastructure of the city while providing valuable work for hungry contractors and small businesses, **Alderman Robert J. Bauman** said.

Alderman Bauman, chair of the Common Council's Public Works Committee, said the current "recession environment" provides a prime opportunity to infuse money into the local economy by awarding contracts for infrastructure projects. He said he will introduce a budget amendment to significantly increase 2012 capital spending to repair streets, sidewalks and alleys, and to preserve vacant and abandoned foreclosed homes.

"We have low interest rates and a favorable borrowing environment, and in addition we have hungry contractors who will be offering reasonable bids that mean overall lower costs to the city," said Alderman Bauman. "The boost in investment will have a much needed positive effect on our economy."

"This work needs to be done, there is no better time than now to perform this work, and quite frankly we do not want to be forced into a situation like Detroit where they have abandoned alleys because of the massive cost of deferred maintenance," he said.

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City Investments Needed/ADD ONE

Alderman Bauman said he plans on working to convince his Council colleagues that the price of infrastructure investments now is miniscule compared to the price that could be paid down the road for inaction.

According to the 2011 “Comparative Revenue and Expenditure Report” issued by Comptroller W. Martin “Wally” Morics, the city’s five-year average replacement cycle for alleys is 328 years, and the same replacement cycle for local streets is more than 115 years (down from 163 years just a few short years ago).