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ROBERT G. DONOVAN
Alderman, 8th District

Streetcar Project Being Rammed Down Our Throats

**Statement of Alderman Bob Donovan
November 17, 2011**

From the beginning I have called for a referendum to allow Milwaukee voters the chance to weigh in on the downtown streetcar project. My amendment to require a referendum before any construction work could begin on the project was defeated earlier this year, but I believe just as strongly today that we should let the people decide if it should go forward. Do we remember the concerns of the comptroller and the utility companies? Did we forget the questions about the route not reaching the lakefront, rosy ridership projections, ongoing maintenance costs and the promised rosy economic forecast of this project (that I believe is pure fantasy)?

Last night's meeting has been described in media reports as better attended by project proponents than opponents. After watching a news clip of the meeting, I can say we had more people opposed at our news conference (where I was joined by Alderman Joe Dudzik and County Supervisor Mark Borkowski – calling again for a referendum) with a half-day's notice than they had in support at last night's long-planned meeting. My belief is that 70% of people in Milwaukee are opposed to the project, and with minimal effort we've already collected hundreds of signatures on petitions calling for a referendum. I believe if we made a strong push for signatures, we could likely collect tens of thousands of additional signatures.

So what are the project's proponents afraid of? Let the people decide!

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