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PSC indicates in favor of City of Milwaukee on Milwaukee Streetcar utility issue

Statement from Alderman Robert J. Bauman September 27, 2012

A majority of the members of the Public Service Commission expressed support today for the City of Milwaukee's position that the Milwaukee Streetcar is a public works project just like roads, sewers and water main projects. Opponents of the streetcar had argued that the streetcar was not a public work and not a proper exercise of the city's police power. Commission members indicated that public utilities would have to bear at least some of the cost of utility relocation but that it was premature to determine how much cost because final design work had not yet been completed.

Future hearings will determine the extent of the cost to be borne by utility companies, but today's PSC meeting is a major step forward in advancing the streetcar project. Opponents have been arguing for over a year that the PSC would order the city to bear all the cost of utility relocation which they hoped would kill the project. The PSC effectively rejected this argument.

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