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Transit workers work stoppage reveals the obvious

Statement of Alderman Joe Davis, Sr. July 6, 2015

As I observed the impact of the recent Milwaukee County Transit System bus service work stoppage, it was obvious that working people and regional businesses were impacted the most by this dispute with Milwaukee County. Those of us who are privileged to have vehicular transportation for our daily needs tend to forget that there are those who are less fortunate.

This brings me to the approved streetcar project for downtown. I couldn't help but think that if the City of Milwaukee had been forward-thinking enough to move forward **immediately** with a comprehensive transportation system servicing the areas of greatest need, one mode of mass transit's stoppage would not have impacted the personal economic obligations of so many.

As one of the downtown streetcar opponents, I argued that Milwaukee's citizens depend on public transportation for their livelihood. During the work stoppage, I couldn't help but witness thousands of riders at a loss from this unfortunate incident, in addition to their employers.

Maybe with this lesson so fresh, rational minds will do the right thing and rethink the future of mass transit for citizens who truly depend on this service. A two-mile streetcar loop downtown now looks like the most idiotic idea. This plan is certainly nothing to be proud of, given the fact that the transit workers work stoppage reveals the obvious—that public transportation is a necessity for some, and an expensive luxury for others.

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