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ROBERT G. DONOVAN

Alderman, 8th District

One more streetcar route change threatens Bastille Days, Jazz in the Park

Statement from Alderman Bob Donovan

March 30, 2015

Someone please tell me *this* isn't so!

Yet after reading the *Business Journal* article I learned that city staffers entrusted by the mayor to oversee the construction of the downtown streetcar want to move a portion of the route from Wells Street to Kilbourn Avenue as a cost-cutting measure.

The route change will interfere with festivals and events, especially Jazz in the Park and Bastille Days! Wasn't the route changed initially from Broadway St. because of the same concerns about utilities and the huge cost of relocating them?

Aren't our highly paid engineers supposed to be looking at every square inch of the route to make sure the streetcar will be implemented smoothly and at an affordable cost?!

Is this administration so inept that it just can't stop getting this long-planned project off track at every turn?

To me, this (route change) illustrates that the eventual route of the streetcar really doesn't matter. All this administration is focused on, quite frankly, is getting the boondoggle built.

I believe firmly that the streetcar is not really being built to solve any transit shortfalls here; it is very much a solution in a desperate search for a problem!

And the Council just voted on the project, and now the route is changing? Do we have to vote on this boondoggle all over again?

-More-

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It is always on my mind that while the Barrett Administration is burning the midnight oil on this project, much more serious and real challenges impacting Milwaukee are going unaddressed.

Any which way you look at it, the streetcar and the Barrett Administration are taking us all for a ride.

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