



Michael J. Murphy
City of Milwaukee Common Council

Streetcar vote a first step down the path to Milwaukee's future

Statement of Common Council President Michael J. Murphy February 10, 2015

Many constituents and members of the community have reached out to me to express their opinions as my colleagues and I have considered the merits of the streetcar proposal adopted today by the Common Council. I greatly appreciated the input throughout this process and am grateful that they took the time to stay informed and actively participate in the debate.

It's readily apparent that this has been a contentious and divisive issue, often characterized by posturing on both sides. As President of the Common Council and a life-long city resident, I have been saddened to see public dialogue reduced to inflammatory and personal language, especially knowing that while opinions differ, we all wish to see the same outcome—a healthy Milwaukee.

Today, the Milwaukee Common Council approved the Milwaukee streetcar and all related files. I, along with eight of my colleagues, supported this measure. We believe the streetcar not only complements a larger transit network, but it also serves as a city-building tool within a broader development plan—a plan that improves mass transit while attracting commercial and residential development in the heart of the city's tax base.

We have the momentum to grow Milwaukee, and today's vote is a big step in the right direction. By pursuing coordinated and aggressive policy agendas that promote growth, we are fostering a dynamic city center with enhanced mobility, access, employment and entertainment, all of which interact to produce a robust economy that helps support and expand the public services that are fundamental to a healthy, vibrant city.

Milwaukee is resilient and in the midst of a transformation. While I do not doubt that we have our share of challenges ahead, despite these, I believe that the best this city has to offer is still to come.

-30-