



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FOR INFORMATION CALL

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Ald. Robert J. Bauman
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State Dems On JFC Ignore City Transit Crisis

Milwaukeeans can thank the Republican members of the Legislature's Joint Finance Committee for stopping – at least for now – a KRM commuter rail funding measure that ignores the city's thousands of bus users, Ald. Robert J. Bauman said today.

Because all of the Republicans on the budget-writing panel voted against the fee yesterday in Madison, the 8-8 vote meant defeat for the measure.

"It's a sad day for the City of Milwaukee when the eight Democrats on the Joint Finance Committee vote against the interests of Milwaukee city and county residents in supporting the \$15 car rental fee as the funding source for the local share of the proposed Kenosha-Racine-Milwaukee commuter rail service operating and capital costs," Ald. Bauman said, referring to yesterday's vote.

Months ago the Milwaukee Common Council and the Milwaukee County Board both went on record opposing the \$15 car rental fee as proposed by the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Transit Authority. In the case of the Common Council, the Council indicated that while it supported the implementation of the proposed KRM commuter service, it would only support a funding source that funded the local share of both the KRM commuter service and local bus service.

The Democrats' action in support of the KRM car rental fee "basically ignored the needs of the tens of thousands of Milwaukee city and county residents who depend on the Milwaukee County Transit System daily," Ald. Bauman said.

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Dems On JFC Ignore City Bus Crisis/ADD ONE

“The bus system is in a death spiral of repeated service cuts and fare increases, and it’s clear these Democrats should have dealt with the current crisis facing MCTS rather than attempting to assist a commuter rail line that would have minimal benefits for most Milwaukee residents,” he said.

Other Milwaukee interests, including the Wisconsin Center District Board and VISIT Milwaukee, both of which voiced concerns that the \$15 fee could complicate the efforts to expand the Midwest Airlines Convention Center, also opposed the car rental fee.

“Hopefully, Milwaukee representatives in the Legislature can now focus on addressing the financial crisis facing the bus system,” Ald. Bauman said.

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