

From the Milwaukee Business Journal

:<http://www.bizjournals.com/milwaukee/print-edition/2015/01/16/streetcar-foes-need-to-move-on.html>

Streetcar foes need to move on

EDITORIAL

SUBSCRIBER CONTENT: Jan 16, 2015, 5:00am CST

Staff Milwaukee Business Journal

It is becoming clear that a majority of the Milwaukee Common Council supports Milwaukee Mayor [Tom Barrett](#)'s controversial streetcar proposal for the downtown area.

That's why it is disappointing to see opponents of the project throwing a "Hail Mary" pass to get a referendum on the project by trying a seldom-used process that, if successful, would force a binding vote on the \$123.9 million streetcar proposal.

Ald. [Bob Donovan](#) and [Joe Davis](#), both of whom are planning to challenge Barrett in 2016, are asking voters to approve via referendum a new law that would require a binding referendum on any rail transit spending of more than \$20 million.

The aldermen are trying to collect 31,000 signatures before a Jan. 21 meeting, although they have 60 days by law to do so. If that is successful, the council must either pass that law at its next meeting or call for an April referendum on it.

That law, if approved, would prompt a referendum on the streetcar project, which includes a loop through downtown and a spur to the lakefront. This same archaic process was used for the ill-conceived sick-leave policy that was forced on the city several years ago.

Donovan and Davis need to stop using the project as a political game and instead realize the region needs to improve Milwaukee's public transportation system.

The streetcar is not the only way, but, as we have said several times before, it is a good first step.