



The Milwaukee County Common Council voted to move ahead with the streetcar this morning.

# Common Council upholds previous vote, approves streetcar proposal

by **OnMilwaukee.com Staff Writers**

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After months of meetings, statements, editorials and heated debates, the Milwaukee Common Council voted down a motion to reconsider the streetcar proposal, 6-9, moving forward with Mayor Barrett's \$124 million Milwaukee streetcar proposal.

The votes were nearly identical to the previous vote on Jan. 21. Those voting against the streetcar proposal and in favor of a reconsideration included Aids. Joe Davis, James Bohl, Robert Donovan, Robert Puente, Tony Zielinski and Joe Dudzik.

Voting against the reconsideration, and therefore in favor of the streetcar plan, included Aids. Nik Kovac, Ashanti Hamilton, Bob Bauman, Milele Coggs, Willie Wade, Jose Perez, Terry Witkowski, Russell Stamper and council president Michael Murphy.

The lone changed vote was that of Zielinski, whose pro-streetcar vote in the previous meeting was made in order to ask for a motion to reconsider the matter at this morning's meeting.

The goal of the previous delay was to allow more time for streetcar opponents to gather the signatures necessary – approximately 31,000 voter names – to force a binding referendum on the matter. The signatures were due by Feb. 8.

Before the verdict, Zielinski, Davis and Donovan made statements to further emphasize their rationale for opposition, noting the other financial issues facing the city of Milwaukee, the future costs of the streetcar and its expansions and – in Donovan's case – the streetcar's lack of "modernity." Davis and Donovan also emphasized their philosophical belief in a referendum.

Prior to the streetcar-related proceedings, the Common Council honored Arike Ogunbowale, the DSHA student and star high school basketball player, who will attend Notre Dame, and was recently named a McDonald's All-American.

Web address: <http://onmilwaukee.com/articles/finalstreetcarapproved.html>