Tom Barrett
Mayor, City of Milwaukee

December 18, 2008

Dear President-Elect Barack Obama Transition Team & Wisconsin Congressional Delegation:

Thank you for the recent meetings and ongoing discussions we have had regarding the potential federal stimulus proposals and upcoming appropriations. I stand ready to work with the new Congress and new Administration on economic recovery and ask that you allocate stimulus funding directly to the City of Milwaukee.

As we have discussed, thriving urban economies are essential to a national economic recovery and local government can play a vital role in jump starting the economy. The City of Milwaukee is experiencing increasing challenges relating to the impact of foreclosures, job losses, and declining consumer spending. Those downturns also increase demand for the City services that people increasingly rely on in these tough times.

Recent passage of the financial investment bailout was done in recognition of need to address the credit and housing crisis. Now it is time to invest in communities and workers who also need assistance to recover in these losses. By working together with local government, we can most immediately impact economic change.

The City of Milwaukee submits these projects and spending priorities for your serious consideration. Priority has been given to those projects that are ready for action and that can be jump started in a short timeframe if given the green light on funding. They will create jobs and reinvest in infrastructure that will last for generations. For decades cities have suffered government cutbacks that have pressured decisions that have under funded cities' long-term infrastructure and maintenance needs. Funding these projects will begin to reverse that trend. The City of Milwaukee has the tools to initiate projects quickly and to employ local residents who reside in neighborhoods facing the highest unemployment rates. Our project priorities combine an immediate economic impact with our mutual interests in ongoing economic and environmental sustainability.

We must also address the transit needs of the future while maintaining our local infrastructure. We support Governor Doyle's proposals for investments in transit for the Midwest High Speed Rail initiative connecting Milwaukee to Madison. This would be a catalyst for significant private development. The Kenosha-Racine-Milwaukee (KRM) commuter rail line along with Milwaukee's Downtown Connector would link thousands of jobs to workers in the region across a 33 mile stretch.

I also think it is important to provide longer-term proposals that will invest in future job creation, technology, and innovation. Milwaukee has set a course and strategic plan to become a fresh water hub for the world. With investments in infrastructure, technology, and research we can collaborate with education and private sector resources to launch the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee School of Fresh Water Sciences.

Thank you for your work and consideration on these issues. Your partnership in advancing these proposals will help the city, region, state and nation begin an economic recovery and invest in a thriving future.

Sincerely,

Tom Barrett

Tom Barrett
Mayor

c: Governor Jim Doyle
Milwaukee Legislative Delegation
Milwaukee Common Council

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City of Milwaukee Project Inventory for the Economic Stimulus Package

Agency	Project	Description	Amount	Jobs
Housing Projects				
Housing Authority	Security and Energy	Provide contracting opportunities to address deferred maintenance needs, which would include painting, landscaping, modernization of elevators for seniors and disabled, enhanced security systems, etc.	$7,050,000	
Housing Authority	Employment and Training	Provide critical employment and training opportunities for a minimum of 70 youth, young adults and dislocated workers.	$1,550,000	70
Housing Authority	Develop quality, affordable rental housing	Revitalization of over 800 units of affordable housing for seniors, families, and disabled, including the acquisition and rehabilitation of foreclosed properties	$56,000,000	
Housing Authority	Conserve natural resources	Replace 15% of our fleet with energy-efficient vehicles, which will also reduce ongoing operating costs. Install passive solar systems and green roofs on high-rises for the elderly and disabled	$5,400,000	
Health Department	Lead Abatement	Provide funding to abate lead in 1,000 housing units including related administrative and laboratory costs	$5,000,000	
TOTAL HOUSING PROJECTS			$75,000,000	70
Economic Development Projects				
Department of City Development	Customized and green collar job training in the 30th Street Industrial Corridor	Provide funds to corridor employers to provide skills-specific training to corridor residents for "traditional" corridor jobs. Develop job training program for residents in connection with environmental remediation work slated for the Corridor, including storm water management, asbestos and lead abatement, and hazardous materials handling.	$750,000	
Department of City Development	Redevelopment of former Tower Automotive site	Create business park at the site of the former Tower Automotive auto parts plant. Project includes demolition, environmental investigation and remediation, and design and installation of infrastructure (streets, sewer, water, storm water, power, landscaping).	$25,645,000	700

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Department of City Development	River walks	Finish court ordered ADA improvement on riverwalks	$2,000,000	
Department of City Development	Redevelopment of former T.C. Esser Paint factory site	Remediate and redevelop abandoned, contaminated factory complex into housing.	$2,595,000	
Department of City Development	Residential redevelopment at 31st/Galena	Remediate parcels and design and install infrastructure for residential development.	$550,000	
Department of City Development	Urban agriculture project	Acquire three-story, 20,000-SF building and combine with adjacent City-owned two-acre parcel to create a grower-to-market economic opportunity	$772,000	
Department of City Development	Business Expansion /Facility Relocation	Relocate existing solid-waste transfer station and self-help recycling center at Green Tree and Industrial Road, to accommodate expansion of business.	$7,000,000	500
Department of City Development	440th Air Force Reserve Base redevelopment	To accommodate redevelopment of the property previously occupied by the 440th Air Force Reserve Base, closed February 2, 2008 under the Base Realignment and Closure Act of 2005, provide funds to separate property required for airport expansion from land to be made available for business expansion. Project requires separation of utilities, creation of interior street system, and development of alternative energy sources (geothermal or solar) to serve the business sites.	$4,000,000	
Department of City Development	Brewery Project	Build new street system to support the redevelopment of the former Pabst Brewery as housing, office and retail uses. Streets are designed to incorporate bioswales and an innovative storm water management system. First phase of street paving is nearing completion; funding sought for additional phases.	$3,005,000	1,500
Department of City Development	Water Business Park	Develop a 200-acre business park and incubator space that serves the growing freshwater research and business sectors in metropolitan Milwaukee. Assemble and remediate land, design and install infrastructure. This project supports the efforts of the Milwaukee 7 Water Council and will create immediate construction sector jobs while providing the space for more than 4,000 new jobs projected to be created in water-related industries and research and development.	$15,000,000	150

Agency	Project	Description	Amount	Jobs
Department of City Development	Great Lakes Research Facility	Provide infrastructure and facilities support for the recently created School of Freshwater Science, the first and only of its kind in the United States.	$10,000,000	
Department of Public Works	Job Training	The City of Milwaukee Department of Public Works Environmental Services in partnership with the Milwaukee Area Workforce Investment Board, Inc. and BIG STEP/Wisconsin Regional Training Partnership have developed the Urban Forestry Training Pilot Program - Connecting Green Sector Training and Job Placement to offer job training in the urban forestry profession to increase diversity and provide family-sustaining jobs to low-income Milwaukee residents. The Urban Forestry Training Pilot Program will expand employment opportunities for low-income residents, increase participation by people of color in the urban forestry profession, provide family income and build safer, stronger individuals, neighborhoods and community. The Urban Forestry Training Pilot Program will recruit and train up to 20 low-income Milwaukee residents per year over 4 years in the urban forestry profession.	$2,000,000	80
Department of City Development	UWM-Engineering School	Purchase downtown land and prepare land for the new location of the UWM-Engineering School.	$5,000,000	
TOTAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS			$78,317,000	2,930
Infrastructure				
Department of Public Works	Mass Transit	Develop and implement a Connector system/street car system to improve access to downtown, reduce travel time and reduce vehicle emissions.	$100,000,000	
Department of Public Works	Sewer	Complete 76 sewer projects that reduce sewer overflow	$31,430,000	37
Department of Public Works	Sewer	Complete sanitary sewer rehab, including laterals, for three systems as stipulated by DOJ	$23,000,000	27
Department of Public Works	Street Construction	Complete 2003-2008 deferred street project list	$10,000,000	
Department of Public Works	Street Construction	Increase construction to improve street condition based on audit of the residential street program	$41,600,000	

Agency	Project	Description	Amount	Jobs
Department of Public Works	Street Lighting	Replace series circuitry to improve energy efficiency	$8,000,000	
Department of Public Works	Street Lighting	Accelerate control circuitry replacement	$5,000,000	
Department of Public Works	Street Maintenance	Pavement Joint Repair, Asphalt Sealing, Asphalt Overlay, Pavement Crackfilling and Sidewalk Improvements	$5,000,000	30
Department of Public Works	Alleys	Complete 100+ deferred alley construction and maintenance projects	$15,000,000	
Department of Public Works	Bridges	Maintenance on six vertical lift bridges	$13,090,000	
Port of Milwaukee	Breakwater	Rehabilitate deteriorating Lake Michigan breakwater	$5,000,000	193
Port of Milwaukee	Street Construction	Resurface deteriorating Port roads	$3,000,000	116
Port of Milwaukee	Major Equipment	Replace crawler crane to improve export capacity	$4,100,000	278
Port of Milwaukee	Various infrastructure	Terminal resurfacing, dock walls, ship aprons, dredging, phytoremediation area	$685,000	45
Port of Milwaukee	Port Expansion	Move container yard to consolidate open space for additional Port development and improve port operational efficiency.	$3,000,000	
Water Department	Water Mains	Twenty eight water main replacement projects, ranging from $45,000 to $3.3 million	$6,600,000	
Water Department	Linnwood Plant	Linnwood water treatment plant fluoride chemical feeds system replacement	$750,000	
Water Department	Howard Plant	Howard water treatment plant west clear well and pump room roof replacements	$2,700,000	
Water Department	Storage Tank	Menomonee water storage tanks demolition and decommissioning	$4,500,000	
Water Department	Storage Tank	Greenfield elevated water storage tank painting project	$2,500,000	
Water Department	Facility grounds	Slope stabilization, regrading, sidewalks, railings, lighting, road repair/replacement	$3,000,000	

Agency	Project	Description	Amount	Jobs
Water Department	Water Meter Shop	Replace acid cleaning area, valves, piping, test benches	$175,000	
Water Department	Pipeline	Reline the wash water tank pipeline at the Linwood Plant	$500,000	
Water Department	Filtering System	Replace media filters at Linnwood and Howard water treatment plants	$4,000,000	
Water Department	Various O&M projects	Various maintenance projects at all Water facilities	$1,875,000	
TOTAL INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS			$294,505,000	726

Agency	Project	Description	Amount	Jobs
Buildings and Equipment				
Library	Buildings	Central Library: Masonry repair, painting, mechanical upgrades, solar panels, interior finishes, drive up window upgrade, Centennial Hall upgrades.	$2,090,000	
Library	Buildings	Central Library: Restoration of Mosaic & Scagiola in Rotunda	$5,000,000	
Library	Buildings	Install green roof on Central Library	$1,000,000	
Library	Buildings	Central Library: Media/Technology Center	$2,600,000	
Library	Buildings	Create three Express Center libraries	$1,000,000	
Library	Buildings	Zablocki Library: replace HVAC, Carpet, Tile installation	$750,000	
Library	Buildings	New Villard Library (joint use)	$2,500,000	
Library	Buildings	New East Library (joint use)	$2,500,000	
Library	Buildings	HVAC upgrades at two neighborhood libraries	$1,000,000	
Library	Buildings	New porous parking lots to reduce rain runoff	$325,000	
Library	Operating Systems	RFID & Self-Check technology (partially funded in 2009 budget, total project cost $3.5 million)	$1,500,000	
Library	Buildings	Create three Regional Libraries ($10 M each)	$30,000,000	
Port of Milwaukee	Port facilities	Terminals, demolition of old facilities, tuck pointing	$475,000	
Department of Public Works	Buildings	Forestry and Sanitation Lincoln Ave facility	$2,500,000	
Department of Public Works	Buildings	Replace hollow walk and foundation stabilization/repair of City Hall	$11,700,000	
Department of Public Works	Buildings	Salt Dome at Ruby Garage	$1,200,000	
Department of Public Works	Buildings	ZMB elevator modernization project	$1,200,000	

Agency	Project	Description	Amount	Jobs
Department of Public Works	Buildings	City Hall - 8th Floor City Attorney Offices	$5,700,000	
Department of Public Works	Buildings	Lower Parking floor replacement in Zeidler Municipal Building	$1,300,000	
Fire Department	Engine House Replacement	Replace Fire engine house #8 and #17	$8,400,000	
Fire Department	Repair Shop	Replace existing inadequate Fire equipment repair facility with new facility	$15,000,000	
Police Department	Administration Building	Upgrade building systems and asbestos abatement	$5,000,000	
Police Department	3rd District	Renovation of old 3rd district station into neighborhood task force facility	$1,000,000	
Police Department	Various Police Facilities	Improvements and building system upgrades to 6 police district stations and evidence storage facility	$5,000,000	
Police Department	Police Cars	Replace 100 police cars	$3,500,000	
TOTAL BUILDINGS AND EQUIPMENT PROJECTS			$112,240,000	0
Environmental Projects				
Department of Administration	Milwaukee Energy Efficiency (Me2)	Retrofit much of the city's building stock by allowing property owners and renters to implement energy efficiency measures with immediate savings and no upfront costs. It saves customers money, helps reduce greenhouse gas emissions, generates local employment and fosters green jobs.	$20,000,000	300
Department of Administration	City Building Energy Efficiency	Retrofit existing lighting, HVAC, windows, building systems, etc. that reduce energy consumption	$5,000,000	
Department of Public Works	Street Lighting Energy Efficiency	Retrofit 10% of existing city street lighting with emerging, energy reducing LED technology	$14,000,000	
TOTAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS			$39,000,000	300
TOTAL PROJECTS			$599,062,000	4,026