

Statement of Ald. Robert J. Bauman

March 23, 2007

Today I'm announcing that I will demand that the Department of Public Works pursue penalties against Zenith Tech, the contractor in charge of the work on the rebuilding of the State St. bridge, and I will also seek to bar the contractor from performing any City of Milwaukee work in the future.

Zenith Tech has acknowledged that its steel supplier failed to give the State St. bridge girder orders the appropriate priority, causing delays of several months and boosting the project more than \$3 million into the red. I believe Zenith Tech is casting blame on this "steel supplier" in an effort to deflect criticism away from its mismanagement and cavalier approach to this important project. The fact that no one seems to ever see crews working on the bridge – especially on nights and weekends – is evidence enough for me that Zenith Tech itself hasn't given the project the attention it deserves.

The Department of Public Works has tried to put a happy face on the project whenever possible – even fudging information about the project being "on schedule" as recently as a month ago. My disappointment in the performance of DPW on the project is great, and I will be seeking answers about why they've again been hiding facts and keeping information from the public.

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