

City of Stevens Point  
1515 Strongs Avenue  
Stevens Point, WI 54481-3594  
Fax 715-346-1530



Department of  
Administrative Service  
Ph: 715-346-159

For Immediate Release  
November 10, 2022

Contact: Mike Wiza, Mayor  
715-346-1570

### **Mayor Wiza Statement regarding Transportation Referendum Passing**

Stevens Point Mayor Mike Wiza is issuing the following statement regarding the passage of all four transportation referendum questions on Tuesday.

"I'm very happy to see that the majority of the voters understood the importance of those questions. We will now be able to bid out and begin preparations for our regular annual street resurfacing and reconstruction projects for 2023.

The two other questions regarding extending Badger Avenue and building a rail side track will not happen until we have a signed developer agreement. While we still cannot disclose the company, we can share that we are one of two North American locations being considered and we will know more about their choice in late January. Staff and myself have been working diligently with the developer and look forward to bringing this public in January. These two projects will be funded through the Tax Incremental Financing District and will not adversely affect property taxes on properties outside that district.

I'm proud of our democratic process and the way it works. When business owners and concerned citizens came before the council on September 20, 2021 and again at the November 15, 2021, I believe we should have hit the pause button and gone back to the table to address the concerns brought up. The Council majority voted to move ahead. Still, Director Beduhn and I offered meetings to all the property owners along the southern corridor, and seemed to make good progress. The petition and subsequent August referendum are products of our democracy, but challenging for our city. I still do not believe it had to come to this, but respect the process and am happy that we're able to keep everyone at the table to try to find practical solutions to Business 51.

Most importantly, I appreciate being able to reach across that table and still bring people together for the common good of our community in ensuring the success of critical projects like the four approved this week. Working past our differences for the common good is paramount to our ability to maintain our critical infrastructure and allow us to continue to create jobs and grow our economy. Thank you, everyone.

Mayor Mike Wiza"

###