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On eve of vote, Milwaukee business leaders again rally for streetcar

By [Crocker Stephenson]() of the Journal Sentinel
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On the eve of the Common Council's final vote Tuesday on the proposed downtown Milwaukee streetcar, a coalition of prominent business leaders again voiced their support for the $124 million project.

"We support the proposed streetcar because it makes powerful economic sense as part of a larger growth strategy for Milwaukee that is already generating billions of new development and thousands of jobs for our community," said Jeff Joerres, executive director of ManpowerGroup, which moved its world headquarters from Glendale to downtown Milwaukee in 2007.

"The streetcar will connect the dots between these major new developments and provide the momentum to spark the next wave of economic development and job creation."

The [coalition includes]()Linda Gorens-Levey, managing director of Stark Investments; Greg Wesley, partner at Gonzalez Saggio & Harlan; Jorge Franco, president of the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Wisconsin; and Greg Marcus, president of Marcus Corp.

It is third time in as many months that members of the coalition have expressed their support timed to key council votes.

The council delayed final approval of the project when it [met in December]()and again [in January]().

Final approval was stalled to give opponents a chance to gather enough signatures — they need 31,000 — to force a binding referendum on any fixed-rail project costing more than $20 million.

Leaders coordinating the petition drive [said last week]()that they do not have enough signatures to scuttle Tuesday's vote. Council members have run out procedural tactics to delay it.

The streetcar measure and its financing measures require the support of at least eight aldermen to carry.

In January, nine voted in favor of the measure.

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http://www.jsonline.com/news/milwaukee/on-eve-of-vote-milwaukee-business-leaders-again-rally-for-streetcar-b99441691z1-291308571.html

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