

From the Milwaukee Business Journal

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Bastille Days, Jazz in the Park organizer 'confident' it can accommodate streetcar reroute

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[Sean Ryan](#)

Reporter- Milwaukee Business Journal

[Email](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Google+](#)

Organizers of Jazz in the Park and Bastille Days say they are working with the city to keep the festivals running while accommodating a potential route change that would run the streetcar along Kilbourn Avenue.

The segment of East Kilbourn Avenue north of Cathedral Square Park is closed to traffic during the events. That poses a challenge as the [city considers changing the route](#) of the downtown streetcar to save money by running a west-bound track on that strip.

There are options to accommodate both the festivals and the rerouted streetcar, but no final solution yet, said [Kim Morris](#), executive director of the **East Town Association**, which organizes Jazz in the Park and Bastille Days.

See Also

- [Proposed streetcar route change raises concern for Jazz in the Park](#)

"Additional meetings will be held to ensure that both events will remain intact and part of Milwaukee's thriving calendar of summer events," Morris wrote in an email to the Milwaukee Business Journal. "Through careful planning we are confident that we can maintain all our events while using the new streetcar system to connect residents, visitors and the downtown workforce."

Morris first met with Milwaukee Department of Public Works officials to discuss the reroute last week, and said more meetings are planned this month.

"We are just reviewing different options on the footprint," she said.

The streetcar reroute would move a west-bound track off of East Wells Street. Shifting that track to Kilbourn between North Broadway and Jackson Street would avoid the cost of relocating the underground utilities below Wells Street and generate substantial savings in the project's construction budget.

City officials are studying the potential reroute, and no final decision has been made. Utility relocation work for the streetcar [is not planned to start until this fall](#).

Reporter Sean Ryan covers commercial and residential real estate for the Milwaukee Business Journal and through the [Real Estate Roundup blog](#) on the website. He also covers construction, highways and public transit.