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EDITORIAL

Streetcar extension needs to happen

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It was good to see the city of Milwaukee move quickly to try and secure a \$20 million federal grant for the next and probably most important extension of the downtown Milwaukee streetcar.

The streetcar's initial line, which would start operating in fall 2018, will run between the Milwaukee Intermodal Station, through downtown Milwaukee and north to Prospect Avenue at Ogden Avenue.



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Rendering of the Milwaukee streetcar

But for the streetcar to be successful, it must serve key areas of downtown Milwaukee. And that

After an extension to segment would run along North Fourth Street, linking a potential new development on West Wisconsin Avenue, the Shops of Grand Avenue, the downtown convention center and the new Milwaukee Bucks arena.

The route's northern tip would be at the main entrance to the new arena that will break ground this summer. A station is planned at Wisconsin Avenue serving a prospective redevelop

Fifth streets.

Milwaukee's Common Council will be asked in the near future to dedicate city money to fill out the project budget for the latest extension. The more money the city contributes, the more competitive the federal grant application will be.

Aldermen need to approve the project as it has potential to help continue the development renaissance currently occurring throughout downtown Milwaukee.

Let's hope federal officials follow suit and award Milwaukee additional money for the project through the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery program.