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**REPORTER SEAN RYAN**

# Streetcar project comes into focus

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A city of Milwaukee task force that will oversee construction of the downtown streetcar held its first implementation meeting on March 26, discussing several updates on the much-debated project. Updates on the \$123.9 million project:

- Milwaukee expects to issue a request for proposals for companies to manufacture streetcar vehicles in early April. Planners predict about four to six manufacturers will respond to the request by the June deadline, and one will be selected in September. Cars will be at least 65 feet long, with three cars, and 8 feet, 8 inches wide.
- Construction contracts to relocate water and sewer lines for the streetcar track may be awarded in July, with work starting in September. The streetcar system itself will be under design until November, so contracts to build track and overhead wires won't be awarded until next January, with work starting in April 2016.
- Milwaukee plans to require contractors hire local workers to build the streetcar, and will implement a training program on the project. There also will be disadvantaged business enterprise contracting requirements on the project.
- The city is considering a route realignment to move a west-bound track from Wells Street to East Kilbourn Avenue near Cathedral Square Park. That route change would save on utility relocation costs, but could conflict with Jazz in the Park and Bastille Days, events that close traffic on Kilbourn Avenue.

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.