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# Streetcar spur to lakefront awarded \$14 million federal grant

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**Sean Ryan**  
Reporter  
*Milwaukee Business Journal*

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A rendering of the streetcar station and public concourse in the base of the proposed... more

RENDERING BY RINKA CHUNG ARCHITECTURE INC.

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Milwaukee received a \$14.2 million federal grant to cover about half the cost of building a streetcar line to the downtown lakefront.

The streetcar route would lead to the downtown lakefront and includes a station in the proposed Couture apartment high-rise building at East Michigan Street and North Lincoln Memorial Drive.

That route would run along East Michigan and East Clybourn streets. It also would run past the Clybourn Street property that Johnson Controls Inc. is studying for a major office tower development.

It is the next major leg of the downtown streetcar to be built after the downtown loop, which is to begin construction next year. Engineering is underway for the lakefront spur.

“This critical federal grant for the Milwaukee streetcar will bring thousands of residents and visitors to major attractions and new developments on Milwaukee’s lakefront,” Mayor Tom Barrett said.

Milwaukee officials in spring applied for the federal grant through the competitive Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery, or TIGER, program. Milwaukee previously tried to get TIGER money for the streetcar, but was unsuccessful.

U.S. Sen. Tammy Baldwin (D-Wis.), who announced the grant award on Monday, supported the application.

Milwaukee has dedicated \$15 million for the project through tax incremental financing districts. Those districts will use the property taxes generated by new developments and increasing real estate values, to pay for the work.

*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.*

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