

Milwaukee County

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City gets \$14.2 million federal grant for streetcar expansion

By Mary Spicuzza of the Journal Sentinel

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The City of Milwaukee has been awarded a \$14.2 million federal grant for construction of the streetcar's Lakefront Line.

The U.S. Department of Transportation grant was announced Monday by Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett, U.S. Sen. Tammy Baldwin (D-Wis.) and U.S. Rep. Gwen Moore (D-Wis.).

The Lakefront Line, which was [approved by the Common Council](#) with the first phase of the streetcar in February, aims to connect Cathedral Square to the Lakefront using Milwaukee St. and Broadway and Michigan St. and Clybourn St.

It will [link](#) the streetcar [to the Couture development](#), which has a stop planned.

"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," Barrett said in a statement. "This announcement builds on the positive momentum we're experiencing in the heart of the city and will also have a significant impact on our neighborhoods, creating hundreds of construction jobs and better connecting our neighborhoods to downtown."

The city is [close to signing a contract](#) with a streetcar-manufacturing company.

"This is a strong federal investment in 21st century Wisconsin infrastructure that will put people to work," Baldwin said. "The Milwaukee Streetcar will also help spur significant economic development and improve the quality of life for Milwaukee residents."

Moore also praised the project, saying it would expand Milwaukee's public transportation options while boosting local economic growth.

"Economic mobility is vital to our city's future," Moore said. "That's why I've dedicated so much time and effort in securing this multimillion federal grant for the Milwaukee Streetcar project. With this funding, we can expand our city's public transportation options while fostering local economic growth and development."

The **grant** will be used to build the Lakefront Line and to purchase a streetcar that will operate on the line, Barrett said. Some of the **money** will also be used to add a second track on St. Paul Avenue, between North 2nd and 5th Streets. **The extension aims to** give riders more flexibility and allow the Lakefront Line to run between the Milwaukee Intermodal Station and the lakefront during special events, such as Summerfest and the Fourth of July, the mayor said.



About Mary Spicuzza

Mary Spicuzza covers politics and breaking news for the Journal Sentinel.

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