

Construction on Milwaukee Streetcar starts in April

Mainline to open next year

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MILWAUKEE, Wis. - The general contractor hired to build the Milwaukee Streetcar said Friday morning that downtown commuters will see construction begin in early April.

Mike Ethier, project manager at Kiewit Corporation, told a meeting of the Joint Committee on Downtown Streetcar Implementation that efforts continue to relocate utilities along the streetcar's route.

- **[Five-Year-Old Clings To Life After Car Wreck](#)**

Construction on the track will kick off on this spring, starting with sections of St. Paul Ave. and Broadway.

For a map of the planned construction, which will continue street by street through 2017 and into 2018, click [here](#).

After the track is installed, polls holding cable to power the streetcar will go up.

Delivery of the first vehicle is expected in December.

Ethier said completion of the main line, serving downtown and the Third Ward, should happen in the second quarter of 2018.

Months of testing will follow, with an expected opening to passengers in late 2018.

All of the steel needed to build the track will be delivered in late March.

Ethier said it will be stored along the route and welded together as needed.

He said that was a more cost-effective option than delivering it in chunks, and also allows the steel to be readily available so the project remains on schedule.

Also Friday, the city announced it is in the process of searching for a company to operate the streetcar and maintain its facilities.

Ghassan Korban, commissioner of the Department of Public Works, said Milwaukee hopes to have a company hired this summer.

“We’ve reached a significant milestone in this project,” Korban said.

He said select stretches of streets will be totally shut down while the streetcar’s track is built.

However, in most cases, at least one lane of roadway will remain open to traffic, Korban said.

- **Local Teen Has Her Sights On The 2020 Olympics**

He said the city continues to work with neighbors and businesses impacted by the construction, which will run from roughly 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. daily.

A lakefront line of the streetcar is also in the works, and scheduled to be operating in late 2019.

The total cost of phase one and the lakefront loop is estimated at \$128 million. Korban said the project remains on budget.

Be sure and try our new SNOWCAST APP! It is the "snow equivalent to STORM SHIELD" - a great new product that gives you high resolution snow forecasts for any part of the nation! It has just been introduced for iPhones, but we are working on the Android version! Just search SNOWCAST in the App Store or [click here](#).

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LOCAL NEWS STORIES

Officers shoot 2 suspects on north side

Police say suspects fired shots at officers first.



Broncos dominate, hand Packers 1st loss of 2015

The Broncos defense completely dominated Aaron Rodgers and company, while Peyton Manning threw for 340 yards.

Man in Halloween costume found in Lake Michigan

Fisherman discovers body in water.

Girl, 4, found dead inside MKE home

29-year-old man questioned by police

Gameday Gallery: Packers at Broncos

Check out pictures from Sunday's Packers-Broncos clash in our media gallery.

Police: Shooting victim wasn't raking leaves

Police say the man was trying to buy drugs, not rake his lawn.

Teen killed in crash with stolen van, police car

Four teens ran from the vehicle but were taken into custody.



4,000-plus compete in PNC MKE Running Festival

Four races held on city streets over weekend.

Milwaukee superheroes mural unveiled

On the corner of Palmer and Keefe avenue, the Milwaukee superheroes mural spotlights eighteen cultural leaders that have contributed to making a difference in Milwaukee.



Royals rally late to win World Series

The Kansas City Royals worked all season to take one more step in the World Series.



Shooting disrupts neighborhood's Halloween

MPD officer hit by car shoots driver.

Police: Woman breaks into zoo, gets bit by tiger

A woman is recovering after reportedly being bit by a tiger early Sunday morning while trespassing at the Omaha Zoo.

TOP STORIES

Record warmth continues this week

The February heat wave continues.



2,419 guns seized on Milwaukee streets last year

Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett is asking for help to tackle the city's gun problem.



42-year-old Waukesha cold case reopened

The body of a infant later named 'Baby Sarah' was found in a storm drain back in 1975.



MPD looking for critical missing 66-year-old man

The man suffers from diabetes and needs his medication.



17 Milwaukee Bucks named to the All-Star game

PHOTO GALLERY: Baconfest Milwaukee 2017

PHOTO GALLERY: Anime Milwaukee 2017

Waukesha girl raises \$4K for "Bow Wow Buddies"

Money raised by Hannah Okel was matched by the 'Bow Wow Buddies Foundation,' totaling more than \$4,100.



MPD investigating overnight double shooting

It happened near the intersection of 50th Street and Center Street around 2 a.m. Sunday.



Man fatally stabs mother near Hudson, WI

Authorities in western Wisconsin say a 28-year-old man fatally stabbed his mother and then shot at police during a chase that ended when he killed himself in Minnesota.

Mobile app made in Wis. aims to empower women

A former gubernatorial candidate in Wisconsin has unveiled a big project she's been working on -- a mobile app, aimed at empowering women.

Man practicing parkour ends up in Denver chimney

Dustin Hinkle, 26, was booked at the Denver jail on suspicion of trespassing following the accident.



Kung fu granny, 93, becomes internet sensation

She may be petite, but Zhang Hexian can pack a punch.

Oscar nominees have these gifts in the bag

The bags are only given to the 25 actors and directors nominated for Oscars each year. The bags are only given to the 25 actors and directors nominated for Oscars each year.

Thief stealing from yard greeted by Bullmastiff

Now that's a good guard dog.

Blast near Bogota bullring injures 31

An explosion Sunday near the Santamaria bullfighting ring in downtown Bogota, Colombia, injured at least 31 people

Senators want Russia-related materials preserved

The move comes amid inquiries into whether Trump's campaign officials were in contact with Russian officials during the race.

Police search for suspect in deaths of teens

Investigators have identified a suspect in the deaths of two teens who went missing during a hike, Indiana State Police said.

Kraft Heinz pulls plug on massive Unilever bid

Two days into its public courtship of Unilever, Kraft Heinz is walking away.

Pence visits former Nazi concentration camp

It came the same week that President Donald Trump faced two public questions about a rise in anti-Semitic attacks

Trump's Sweden comment raises questions

President Donald Trump's reference to "what's happening last night in Sweden" during a Saturday rally in Florida raised questions in Sweden and around the internet about what he really meant.

Limbaugh on media: They're enemies of Trump

When President Donald Trump denounced several news organizations as "the enemy of the American people," even some of his sympathizers thought he had gone too far. Not Rush Limbaugh, though.

Man practicing parkour ends up in Denver chimney

Dustin Hinkle, 26, was booked at the Denver jail on suspicion of trespassing following the accident. 

Kasich: Repealing Medicaid expansion a bad idea

Ohio Gov. John Kasich says he won't "sit silent" and watch the Affordable Care Act's Medicaid expansion get "ripped out" as Republicans work to repeal the law.