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# Johnson Controls has 'keen interest' in Milwaukee streetcar vote as it considers expansion

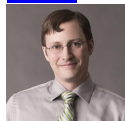
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[Johnson Controls Inc.](#) is taking a "keen interest" in the Milwaukee streetcar as it eyes the city of Milwaukee, and surrounding communities, for a possible expansion.

The company has significant operations in downtown Milwaukee along a proposed lakefront spur of the streetcar that would run along East Michigan and East Clybourn streets. [Fraser Engerman](#), Johnson Controls' director of global media relations, declined comment on specific locations the company is considering.

"Johnson Controls is exploring a full range of options to address our expanding facilities needs in the area to support future growth," a statement from the company said. "These include options within Milwaukee, the surrounding communities and potentially elsewhere. These efforts are focused on growth and would not entail displacing our current local workforce."

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Transportation and access to potential locations is a key consideration, according to the statement, so the company is monitoring the streetcar situation closely. [Alex Molinaroli](#), president and CEO of Johnson Controls, was among the executives who signed onto a public letter to city officials in mid-December that urged support for downtown projects such as the streetcar.

The Milwaukee Common Council will next consider the streetcar project on Jan. 21, but could delay a final decision until early February. Meanwhile, opponents are mobilizing behind a petition that could force a voter referendum on the project.

Johnson Controls, based in Glendale, had a major expansion last year. It set up a

140,000-square-foot office in a building it leased on South 60th Street in West Allis. There are questions over access to the West Allis location, as the Wisconsin Department of Transportation considers potentially removing nearby Interstate 94 ramps at Hawley Road.

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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