

# 40 under 40 winners big backers of city's streetcar - Milwaukee - Milwaukee Business Journal

If some of the 2016 40 Under 40 winners are any indication, young professionals will be big fans and users of the city of Milwaukee's new streetcar system.

Later this year, Milwaukee will begin construction on the first phase of its streetcar, a 2.1-mile mainline through downtown. Service will start in 2018, with possible expansions already being discussed along the city's lakefront and to other areas of downtown and nearby neighborhoods.

The project has been controversial since it was proposed several years ago. It was thought that young professionals would be big backers of the project, and a survey of area millennials by the Public Policy Forum in fall 2015 found support for the project, but not at the levels some expected.

But in the case of 20 of the Milwaukee Business Journal 40 Under 40 winners, nearly all of them said they would ride the new system. The supporters even included some who had opposed the project in the past.

"Candidly, I've been critical of the streetcar only in that I believe there were better uses for funding," said [Jason Eggert](#) of Associated Bank. "However, now that it is moving forward, I want to see it succeed – and it will only do so if we see a great deal of support through ridership."

Here are some of the winners' responses to the question: **Will you use the city's new streetcar system?**

"I'm looking forward to it. I've been to Denver and witnessed how the accessibility to transit improves and promotes business, commerce, jobs and living space. It's a win-win for everyone."

[Dr. Sylvestra Ramirez](#), *Physical Therapy of Milwaukee*

"I am definitely excited to use the streetcar system and hope it is immediately successful so it can expand to other areas of the city quickly."

[Kristyn Eitel](#), *BelAir Cantina*

"Absolutely. I would use it to get to and from the train station and to reach areas of the city I would not necessarily visit for weekday meals. And my kids would love it – I am convinced that they would ride it for an entire afternoon."

[Casey Fleming](#), *Foley & Lardner LLP*

"Absolutely. If they keep the proposed design, a station would be a block from our offices on Prospect Avenue. I would attend more Bucks and Admirals games since I could just hop on the streetcar after work. I would also be a more frequent visitor of downtown restaurants over the lunch hour since the travel would become easier."

[Tom Lindow](#), *Milwaukee Jewish Federation*

“Absolutely. This will be a new attraction that will bring much activity and life to downtown Milwaukee. I will definitely be on board during festival season. This modern system is innovative and invigorating to our city. This form of transportation will connect the dots on so many levels.”

[Arleta Cobb](#), *Milwaukee Christian Center*