

## MILWAUKEE NEWS

# Common council approves \$20 million to extend streetcar

By *Maggie Angst* of the *Journal Sentinel*

Yesterday 4:39 p.m.

The City of Milwaukee Common Council approved a local funding package for the Milwaukee streetcar system's Fourth Street extension at a meeting on Wednesday. The council voted to use \$20 million of local tax increment finance (TIF) money to extend the streetcar route on a portion of Fourth Street between Juneau and St. Paul avenues.

The Fourth Street extension will allow the streetcar system to extend into more neighborhoods, including Bronzeville and Walker's Point.

"This will help tremendously with the growth and development we are seeing in the city and an increased recognition of economic benefits that can come with the streetcar," said Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett. "It's a great step to getting closer to the neighborhoods like Bronzeville."

As approved by the council Wednesday, the extension would be partially paid for with \$20 million from three TIF districts, including one new district. The other half of the project would be covered by a \$20 million federal Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grant that the city applied for. The city will wait to use the local funding package until securing the federal grant, Barrett said. The TIGER grant awards are expected to be announced in fall.

Although the funding was approved, not everyone was in support. Ald.

Tony Zielinski was one of the few council members who voted against the extension.

"We've got other tax priorities in this community," Zielinski said. "The money spent could be going toward tax coffers, but are going to the streetcar now instead."

**Find this article at:**

<http://www.jsonline.com/news/milwaukee/common-council-approves-20-million-to-extend-streetcar-b99757320z1-385754891.html>

Check the box to include the list of links referenced in the article.