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EYES ON MILWAUKEE

## Streetcar Track Construction Starts in April

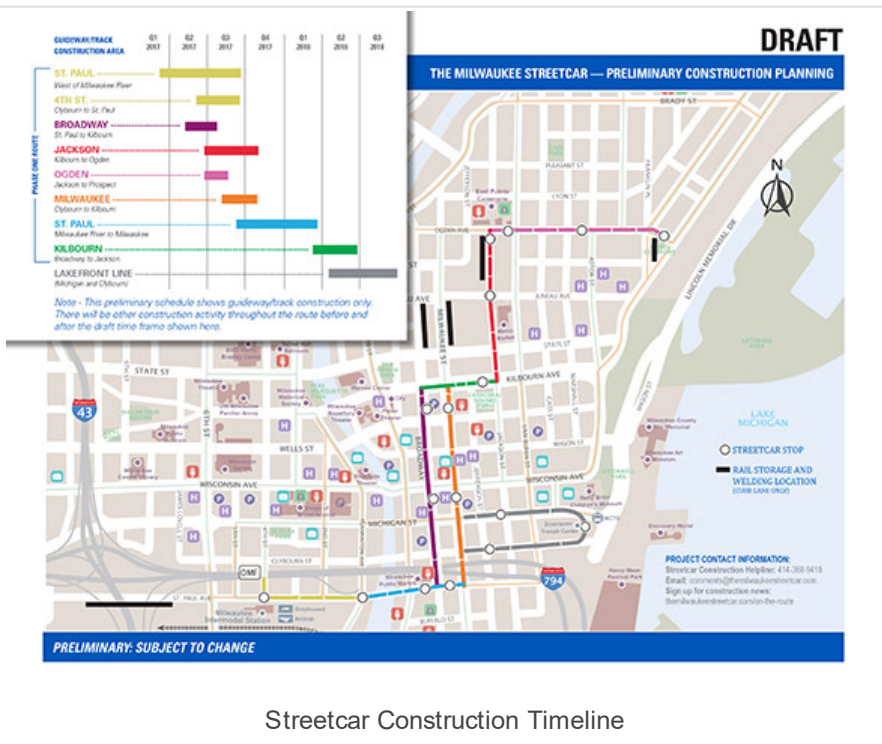
System on track to start service in late 2018, project is on-budget

By Jeramey Jannene - Feb 17th, 2017 11:52 am

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Streetcar Construction Timeline

The first track for the Milwaukee Streetcar will be installed in April of this year. The initial segment built will be a double-tracked section running from the Milwaukee River to the Milwaukee Intermodal Station along W. St. Paul Ave. From there, crews will work to build

Entertainment

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the rest of the route over the next year. Service is on track to begin in the fourth quarter of 2018 following testing.

Kiewit Infrastructure project manager **Michael Eithier** briefed the city’s Joint Committee on Downtown Streetcar Implementation today on construction staging details regarding what his firm regards as a three phase project. The first phase involves utility relocation (already well underway) as well as strategically staging the steel rails at points along the route and building the foundations for the the overhead catenary system. In late March the city will accept delivery of 474 80-foot long rail segments that will be stored at five points along or near the route in curb lanes.

The second phase of Kiewit’s work involves building the actual track system. That work, which is to begin in April, will involve cutting an 8-foot wide and 2-foot deep segment of the street out and installing and welding the rails. From there a new concrete slab will be poured around the rails. In select situations an entire intersection will be rebuilt. Eithier stated that “in almost all cases we’ll be able to keep one lane of traffic going at all times.” The project manager also noted that access to parking garages and other entry points along the route will be maintained throughout construction.

The final phase of Kiewit’s work involves installing the overhead catenary system which provides power to the vehicles and testing the system. Portions of the route will run “off wire” utilizing battery technology in the vehicles, but the majority of the route will have overhead wire.

According to Eithier and Department of Public Works commissioner **Ghassan Korban** the construction schedule reflects meeting with stakeholders along the route to accomodate their needs. This includes the section along E. St. Paul Ave. in the Historic Third Ward being finished before Summerfest begins in late June and the section along E. Kilbourn Ave. not commencing until after the summer festival season and Bastille Days.

Kiewit expects to complete construction in the second quarter of 2018 to allow for testing to commence. The Milwaukee Streetcar Maintenance Facility, to be built under Interstate 794, is scheduled for completion before the end of 2017. The facility will be completed in advance so that the city can safely store the vehicles delivered by Brookville Equipment Corporation.

As the Kiewit project manager said, “it’s going to be a very busy 2017 building the guideway.”

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## Utility Work Continues

Utility work, which has been underway for over a year, will continue through the early stages of the track construction. Crews from [We Energies](#) are performing the work on-budget, according to monthly status updates given to the city says Ethier. Approximately \$15 million is in an escrow account and dispensed on an on-going basis. Contractors for We Energies and other utilities are on schedule with their work, and have completed approximately 80 percent of the planned relocations.

## Hiring About to Start

As I reported in January, Kiewit is gearing up for a major hiring push for the streetcar. The firm is securing agreement with a number of sub-contractors. Kiewit will need to subcontract with a number of certified disadvantaged business enterprises (DBE) to achieve the 21 percent of project costs goal in that category, a goal that Eithier said they're on track to meet.

Hiring of actual workers, approximately 50 percent of which will work directly for Kiewit, is slated to begin soon. An initial outreach event generated substantial interest according to Eithier, but alderwoman [Milele A. Coggs](#) pushed to deliver more demographic details on who those individuals were and continue to work on expanding their outreach efforts. The project council approval requires 40 percent of the project hours to be completed by city residents qualified under the city's Resident Preference Program for un- or under-employed individuals. Potential streetcar workers are receiving training from [WRTP/BIG STEP](#) through a transportation construction class.

Specialized crews from out-of-state will be used to do the flash welding that connects the rails. According to Korban and Eithier companies that do this work use specialized equipment and travel the whole country doing their work. According to Eithier "it's a very unique piece of work, not something done very regularly." Students in [Milwaukee Area Technical College's](#) welding program will have an opportunity to learn from the crews when they're here

## Lakefront Line

The lakefront spur of the Milwaukee Streetcar will see construction start later than the system's main line. Guideway construction along E. Michigan St. and E. Clybourn St. isn't slated to begin until the

Angel on **Guide: Milwaukee's 30 Best Pizzas**

Toni f Underhill on **Guide: Milwaukee's 30 Best Pizzas**

### New Faces

Welcome event brings President-Elect Dr. Christine Pharr to campus

Erin M. Strohbehn Honored As 2017 "Leader in the Law" by the Wisconsin Law Journal

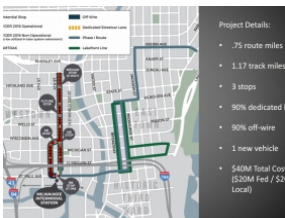
Gilman Halsted, retired Wisconsin Public Radio reporter, named Distinguished Wisconsin Watchdog

### More New Faces

second quarter of 2018. Utility work will proceed the actual track construction though.

Service on the lakefront line is planned to begin in the fourth quarter of 2019.

# Route and Expansion Plans



12▶

## More Information

For more information on project details, how the operator will be selected, what the vehicles will be like, and possible extensions, see our extensive past coverage.

- [The Milwaukee Streetcar is Hiring](#) – Jeramey Jannene – January 20th, 2017
- [Streetcar Project Receives Federal Grant](#) – Jeramey Jannene – October 12th, 2016
- [Council Okays Streetcar to Bucks Arena](#) – Jeramey Jannene – July 6th, 2016
- [\\$6.5 Million in Streetcar Savings](#) – Jeramey Jannene – February 26th, 2016
- [Donovan Lies About Streetcar Suit](#) – Jeramey Jannene – February 15th, 2016
- [BID Sells Streetcar-Related Development](#) – Jeramey Jannene – January 15th, 2016
- [Pennsylvania Company Wins Streetcar Contract](#) – Jeramey Jannene – November 13th, 2015
- [City Accepts \\$14 Million Federal Streetcar Grant](#) – Michael Horne – October 29th, 2015
- [Anti-Streetcar Petition Dies](#) – Bruce Murphy – August 28th, 2015
- [Scott Walker Aids Milwaukee Streetcar](#) – Jeramey Jannene – July 13th, 2015
- [Streetcar Construction Starts in October](#) – Jeramey Jannene – July 10th, 2015
- [The Strange Politics of Anti-Streetcar-ites](#) – Bruce Murphy – June 18th, 2015
- [Anti-Streetcar Petition Drive Fails](#) – Bruce Murphy – March 5th, 2015
- [Streetcar Signing Is Quite a Celebration](#) – Michael Horne – February 13th, 2015
- [Milwaukee Streetcar Approved](#) – Jeramey Jannene – February 10th, 2015
- [Who's Lobbying for the Streetcar](#) – Bruce Murphy – February 5th, 2015
- [Will Streetcar Help the Inner City?](#) – Bruce Thompson – February 4th, 2015
- [City Attorney Says Streetcar Petitions Might be Moot](#) – Bruce Murphy – January 30th, 2015

- [Millennials And The Streetcar](#) – Bruce Thompson – January 27th, 2015
- [Streetcar Responses Show Wide Support](#) – Jeramey Jannene – January 22nd, 2015
- [Streetcar Approved, but Held](#) – Jeramey Jannene – January 21st, 2015
- [Koch-Funded Group Backs Anti-Streetcar Drive](#) – Bruce Murphy – January 20th, 2015
- [Streetcar Backers Say They Have the Votes](#) – Jeramey Jannene – January 20th, 2015
- [Who is Funding the Anti-Streetcar Effort?](#) – Bruce Murphy – January 20th, 2015
- [Will Anti-Streetcar Referendum Succeed?](#) – Bruce Murphy – January 9th, 2015
- [The Story Behind the Streetcar Referendum](#) – Michael Horne and Bruce Murphy – January 8th, 2015
- [Council Delays Streetcar Until January](#) – Jeramey Jannene – December 16th, 2014
- [Committee Takes No Action on Streetcar](#) – Jeramey Jannene – December 10th, 2014
- [Committee Approves Milwaukee Streetcar](#) – Jeramey Jannene – December 9th, 2014
- [RACM Approves Tax Funding for Streetcar](#) – Michael Horne – December 8th, 2014
- [How to Sell the Streetcar](#) – Michael Horne – November 28th, 2014
- [Next Steps for the Streetcar](#) – Michael Horne – November 24th, 2014
- [Barrett Moving Forward with Streetcar](#) – Jeramey Jannene – November 18th, 2014
- [Who Will Be Streetcar Operator](#) – Michael Horne – May 8th, 2014
- [A Streetcar Named Cooperation?](#) – Dave Reid – April 27th, 2014
- [How a Streetcar Spurs Development](#) – Angie Schmitt – November 3rd, 2013
- [Streetcar Social](#) – Michael Horne – September 12th, 2013
- [Mayor Says Streetcar is a “Trojan Horse”](#) – Michael Horne – April 17th, 2013
- [Whoops. We Changed Our Mind](#) – Dave Reid – September 27th, 2012

- [Battle of the Bobs: Donovan vs Bauman Streetcar Press Conference](#) – Jeramey Jannene – May 18th, 2012
- [Important Hoan Bridge and Milwaukee Streetcar Meetings This Week](#) – Dave Reid – November 14th, 2011
- [Milwaukee Streetcar Passes Common Council](#) – Jeramey Jannene – July 26th, 2011
- [Keep the Milwaukee Streetcar Moving Forward](#) – Jeramey Jannene – July 8th, 2011
- [Milwaukee Streetcar at Apex](#) – Jeramey Jannene – June 16th, 2011
- [Milwaukee Streetcar Takes Key Step Forward](#) – Jeramey Jannene – May 6th, 2010
- [Milwaukee Streetcar Meeting This Thursday](#) – Jeramey Jannene – October 5th, 2009
- [Milwaukee Streetcar Routes Unveiled by Mayor Barrett](#) – Jeramey Jannene – September 21st, 2009
- [Milwaukee Streetcar Round-Up](#) – Jeramey Jannene – April 19th, 2009
- [Vote for your Favorite Milwaukee Streetcar Route](#) – Jeramey Jannene – March 25th, 2009
- [Design Your Own Streetcar Route](#) – Jeramey Jannene – March 23rd, 2009
- [Streetcars Coming to Milwaukee](#) – Dave Reid – March 14th, 2009




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## Eyes on Milwaukee

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Inside the River	My 5 Milwaukee	Bucks Unveil
House	Valentines	New Signs for
Apartments		Arena





Feb 16th, 2017 by Jeramey Jannene



Feb 14th, 2017 by Jeramey Jannene



Feb 14th, 2017 by Jeramey Jannene

**Categories:** Eyes on Milwaukee, Real Estate

## 7 THOUGHTS ON “EYES ON MILWAUKEE: STREETCAR TRACK CONSTRUCTION STARTS IN APRIL”

### 1. WashCoRepub says:

February 17, 2017 at 11:59 am

Onward to a bright, progressive, multi-modal future!

Hopefully, the next stages can take us forward/backward to horses and gas street lighting.

### 2. Mr. Michael Horne says:

February 17, 2017 at 5:37 pm

Thank you for your concise and informed report.

### 3. Vincent Hanna says:

February 17, 2017 at 8:00 pm

WashCoTroll, that joke wasn't funny when you first made it two years ago. Repeating it doesn't improve it. Right-wingers just aren't funny.

### 4. John Savage says:

February 18, 2017 at 9:58 am

Now that Trump is President, we can be sure there will be NO new grants to extend this albitross. It's uselessness will become clear even to our dear Mayor.

### 5. John Casper says:

February 18, 2017 at 10:10 am

WashCoRepub, it's "integrated multi-modal transit."

If you had ever owned a vehicle, you'd know the worst thing for it is stop-and-go driving.



Employers love the street car. Their workers can ride it and work.

6. **Tom D says:**

February 18, 2017 at 4:14 pm

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John Savage (post 4): I wouldn't be so sure about Trump cutting off future streetcar funding. His inaugural address included this sentence:

We will build new roads and highways and bridges and airports and tunnels **and railways** all across our wonderful nation.  
(Emphasis added.)

Besides, he's from New York City—where more people commute by rail than by automobile, so he knows the value of rail.

7. **mbradleyc says:**

February 18, 2017 at 11:16 pm

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I'm excited to see this finally get going. I look forward to using it.

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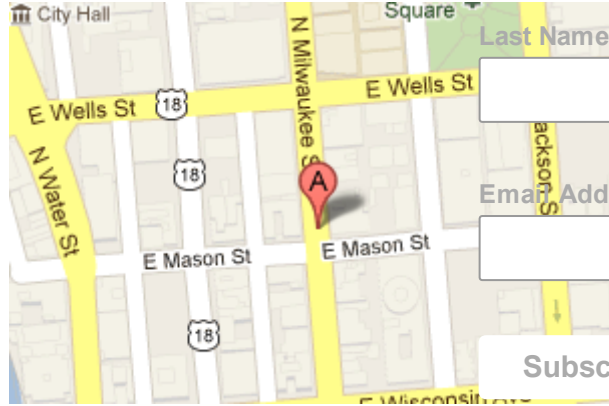
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