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REPORTER SEAN RYAN

## Streetcar package includes money to plan for Bronzeville line

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In addition to extending the Milwaukee streetcar to the downtown arena, a \$20 million financing proposal includes money to plan an extension into the city's Bronzeville neighborhood to the north.

The city will soon hire a contractor to build the streetcar's initial downtown loop and a spur to the lakefront. Next in line is a route running along North Fourth and Fifth streets between West St. Paul and Highland avenues.

That route would link the streetcar to the future arena, and a planned mixed-use development officials hope to attract to a parking lot at Fourth Street and Wisconsin Avenue.

Milwaukee's public works and development departments are seeking Common Council approval to spend \$20 million on the extension using through three tax incremental financing districts. One district would pull property taxes from a future development at Fourth and Wisconsin to pay for the streetcar's Fourth Street extension.



RICH KIRCHEN

City parking lot at Fourth and West Wisconsin Avenue

The next extension after that hasn't been decided, but city officials have talked about going north to Bronzeville, or south into the 3rd Ward and Walker's Point. A line to Bronzeville near North Avenue would respond to criticism that the streetcar focuses only on downtown, and doesn't support minority neighborhoods around it.

A potential route for that Bronzeville extension, and funding for its preliminary engineering, are included in the \$20 million TIF proposal. The exact dollar amount for the Bronzeville extension has not been nailed down, said [Jeff Fleming](#), Department of City Development spokesman.

The Bronzeville line would continue north along Fourth Street to Vliet Street, turn east for one block onto North Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Drive, and then head north until reaching North Avenue.

**Sean Ryan**

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