

Dakota Crowell

Sandburg Box#SO831

3400 N. Maryland Ave.

Milwaukee, Wi 53211

UWM sophomore

District 3

To whom it may concern:

I am writing to you today to express my support for the Milwaukee Street Car project. I believe the implementation of the street car is going to be a great asset to the new development that is heading to downtown Milwaukee (the Couture, 833 at Michigan, the new Northwestern Mutual Building, and a new arena...hopefully). I believe Milwaukee needs this streetcar to remain competitive in the market for new economic development. I also really appreciate the plans for the extension to the lakefront; it would be great for the image of the new lakefront development plan.

As a college student from UWM, I also hope to someday see the streetcar extend to UWM. It would be a great asset for UWM to advertise to prospective students and would also help shape the new image UWM is rebranding for itself. I understand that this route is a starter route, and while the street car may not affect me immediately, I would still like to see this in our region. Maybe someday the street car could even extend to Brookfield or Oak Creek. I have really grown to love Milwaukee and have strongly thought about staying in the area after school for work. I know if Milwaukee would implement this street car, it would be a huge plus for me to stay in the region. I believe that I am not the only college student that feels this way either.

When I read comments online that are against the street car, I get a little frustrated. A lot of comments are about the cost. I know that the street car is expensive, but I feel that Mayor Barrett and the website for the street car do a good job at explaining the different ways this project is financed. I also see comments criticize that the money should be spent on police to decrease crime. In my opinion, crime is something that needs more than police to solve. While police play a huge role in the reduction of crime, stable job employment and opportunities, and adequate resource to fresh food, education, and housing create a trickle effect to help crime in low-income neighborhoods. I think this street car proposal is something that could potentially help this issue. If the street car would connect to places like the Bronzeville development or other low-income areas, it would help give citizens better access to jobs and education throughout Milwaukee.

A lot of times, citizens in lower income areas do not have stable transportation, and I believe if the streetcar is done right, it can really provide a stable system to connect all citizens in Milwaukee. Please keep this into consideration if the streetcar were to be passed on Wednesday. I really hope that this streetcar is used in the proper way as it can benefit not only Milwaukee, but the entire region of South Eastern Wisconsin. Thank you for your time.