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Woodward Light Rail plan in Detroit to win \$25M grant

By TODD SPANGLER

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WASHINGTON – The Woodward Avenue Light Rail project in Detroit is expected to receive a \$25 million grant Wednesday, a congressional source told the Free Press.

The source spoke on condition of anonymity because the announcement hasn't been made yet. The U.S. [Department of Transportation](#) is expected to announce a host of mass transit awards nationwide Wednesday, with the money coming through the \$787-billion stimulus bill enacted by Congress and signed into law by President Barack Obama exactly a year ago.

The funding comes through a program known as Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery, or TIGER. The stimulus legislation appropriated \$1.5-billion, available through Sept. 30, 2011, for supplementary grants for surface transportation investments. The TIGER grants can be no less than \$20 million and no more than \$300 million.

It was not immediately known what part of the project the grant money would be used for or how much more might be needed in order to complete plans for light rail along Woodward Avenue in Detroit.

In a statement released late today, U.S. Sen. [Carl Levin](#), D-Mich., confirmed the grant.

“Detroit has had an all-bus fleet for decades, and the city has long struggled to build a rapid transit line along the Woodward Avenue corridor,” said Levin. “This funding is a vital vote of confidence from the U.S. Department of Transportation and is a huge boost to move this project forward. Developing a light rail system along Woodward Avenue is an extraordinary public-private partnership that will create jobs and will spur economic development.”