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Preliminary OK given for Gateway funding

Preliminary approval has been gained for \$6.95 million in federal funds to complete Beloit's Gateway Boulevard, U.S. Rep. Tammy Baldwin, D-Madison, said Friday.

The funding is included in the House version of the Transportation Reauthorization Bill. The bill, which funds the nation's transportation systems for the next five years, now moves to the full House for a vote.

"This is very good news," Baldwin said. "I believe completing the Gateway project is critical to address some of the economic development challenges that face the Greater Beloit Area. I am very pleased to be part of efforts which will create good paying jobs, and enhance Beloit's ability to attract new business. I am confident that this money will go a long way toward achieving these goals."

Baldwin previously secured \$500,000 in federal funds for work in the Gateway development. Funds included in the transportation bill will ensure completion of the project during the next five years.

"The Gateway Project is a critical component of Beloit's future economic development," said Beloit City Manager Larry Arft. "It will better position Beloit to recruit major businesses, and will be the center of significant job creation. The money secured by Congresswoman Tammy Baldwin will make completion of the project a reality. We recognize that this would not have happened without the work of Congresswoman Baldwin and are grateful for her continued strong advocacy on behalf of Beloit."

The 364-acre Gateway project includes plans for a business park with office, commercial and retail development, a mix of light and heavy industrial sites, multi-family housing and several

types of single-family housing. Eventually, the project could add \$500 million to Beloit's tax base.

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