

4753 North Broadway, Suite 822
Chicago, Illinois 60640

May 1, 2015

Dear Mr. Wilson,

On behalf of the Uptown United Development Partners committee, thank you for seeking our organization's support and input regarding the CTA's Red & Purple Modernization Program. Safe, efficient and reliable public transportation is critical to Chicago's economic prosperity and high quality of life. Uptown relies heavily on the North Red Line and we strongly believe its modernization will directly benefit our community.

The CTA Red Line has been the backbone of Chicago's busy rail transit system for the past 90 years, and it is ready for an upgrade. Much of the infrastructure is past its useful lifespan and faces being unable to meet future ridership demand, which continues to grow. The CTA's plan to completely rebuild and expand the Red and Purple lines is a sound investment in this critical infrastructure.

We support the CTA's Red & Purple Modernization Program. While we welcome these necessary improvements, we are mindful of how the construction and station closures will impact Uptown's commercial districts. To help minimize impact, we kindly request the CTA:

- Minimizes station closures at Argyle and Lawrence, both surrounded by businesses dependent on commuter foot traffic.
- Works with entertainment venue owners who rely on the Lawrence station, in order to prevent the station closure from impeding the future momentum of the Uptown Entertainment District
- Partners with Uptown United on placemaking and district planning efforts to enhance the infrastructure improvements
- Demonstrates clear renderings once they are ready for review by the community

As a global city, we must continue to invest in modern transit to attract and retain businesses that offer the best opportunities for our residents. Uptown United looks forward to a continued partnership with the CTA in serving the Uptown community. If you have any questions, please contact me at (773) 878-1064 or sdinges@uptownunited.org.

Sincerely,



Sara Dinges
President/CEO, Uptown United

CC:

Jackie Lowe – Chair, Development Partners
Suellen Long – Chair, Uptown United