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## **CTA Red and Purple Modernization (RPM) Project Team Kicks Off First of Several “Meet the Contractor” Events; CTA Starts 2019 Roadshow**

*Agency moves forward with Red and Purple Modernization (RPM) Phase One project with outreach to small businesses in 2019 to encourage participation in largest-ever CTA project*

As part of CTA’s ongoing effort to provide new opportunities for small local business owners, CTA kicked off the first of several “Meet the Contractor” outreach events for small businesses interested in bidding on work related to the CTA’s Red and Purple Modernization (RPM) Phase One project. CTA also announced more meetings throughout 2019 that small businesses can attend to learn more about RPM-related contract opportunities.

The first “Meet the Contractor” event with Walsh-Fluor Design-Build Team, the design-build contractor for RPM Phase One, was held on Tuesday, April 23 and was attended by nearly 60 small businesses and 11 non-profit organizations that assist small businesses with responding to government bids for services and other small business issues.

Walsh-Fluor, the design-build contractor for RPM, co-hosted the meeting with CTA. The meeting followed several outreach events hosted by CTA to encourage small business participation in CTA projects, including RPM. Earlier this month, CTA held an event on April 4 to provide small businesses with technical assistance on how to bid on upcoming RPM outreach work that was attended by dozens of businesses.

At the April 23 meeting, Walsh-Fluor provided an overview of the RPM project overview, introducing their team and specialty consultants, a construction procurement schedule of projected work and their vendor solicitation process. CTA also provided information to small businesses how to become certified as a Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBEs) to bid on CTA work. Walsh-Fluor has committed to a goal of 20.64 percent DBE participation in the design of RPM and 20 percent DBE participation in the construction of the project.

CTA’s RPM Phase One project will benefit customers across the CTA system. The \$2.1 billion project includes:

- Reconstructing the Lawrence, Argyle, Berwyn and Bryn Mawr Red Line stations into larger, 100 percent accessible stations and track structure totaling six miles that is nearly a century old.

- Building a rail bypass north of Belmont station that will improve service reliability on the Red, Purple and Brown lines, increasing train speeds, easing overcrowding on rail cars, and providing additional train service capacity for projected future growth.
- Installing a new signal system on 23 track miles between Howard and Belmont that, similar to roadway traffic signals, will improve CTA train flow and increase service reliability.

Advance work on the RPM project, including relocating utility lines and property demolition, began in 2018. Currently the agency is continuing relocating utility lines and equipment and has completed property demolition. Major project construction will begin in late 2019 and be completed in 2025. CTA and Walsh-Fluor throughout 2019 will travel to non-profit organizations and professional associations across the city. The schedule of events currently includes:

<b>Organization</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Location</b>
<b>HACIA</b>	May 8	5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.	East Bank Club, 500 N Kingsbury
<b>Chatham Business Assn</b>	June 11	9 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.	CBA office, 800 E 78th
<b>US Minority Contractors Assn</b>	June 20	9:00am-10:30am	TBD
<b>Chicago Urban League</b>	July 9	9:30am-11:30am	CUL office, 4510 Michigan
<b>Chicago MSDC</b>	July 23	TBD	TBD
<b>Cosmopolitan Chamber of Commerce</b>	August 1	1:30 p.m. -3:30 p.m.	Cosmo office, 30 E Adams
<b>Black Contractors Owners and Executives (BCOE)</b>	August 15	5 p.m. – 7 p.m.	LiveWire Construction, 12900 S. Throop
<b>Greater Englewood Community Development Corp.</b>	September 19	1 p.m. – 3 p.m.	GECD office, 815 W. 63rd
<b>National Association of Minority Contractors</b>	September 26	6:30 p.m. - 8 p.m.	NAMCC office, 4455 S. MLK Dr
<b>Black Contractors United</b>	October 8	6 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.	TBD
<b>Illinois Hispanic Chamber of Commerce</b>	October 16	2 p.m. – 4 p.m.	IHCC office, 222 W Merchandise Mart Plaza #1212
<b>Austin African American Business Networking Assn</b>	October 25	9 a.m.-11 a.m.	AAABNA office, 5820 W Chicago

For more information on the RPM project, visit: [transitchicago.com/rpm](http://transitchicago.com/rpm).



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