



“Meet the Contractor” Community Meeting Summary Report – Berwyn to Bryn Mawr Business Owners

Date: May 23, 2019

Start Time: 9:00 AM

Location: St. Ita Catholic Church, 5500 N Broadway

Speakers:

- Alderman Harry Osterman (48th Ward)
- Mike O'Donnell (Walsh-Fluor)
- Tammy Chase (CTA-RPM)
- Jeff Wilson (CTA-RPM)

Support:

- Christina Williams - CTA Workforce Initiatives
- Shavon Moore - CTA DBE/SBE Certification
- Katherene Cuza - CTA DBE
- LaTrice Phillips-Thompson – CTA-RPM
- Steve Hands – CTA-RPM
- Stephanie Whitcomb – Walsh-Fluor
- Michal Williams - CTA RPM
- John Titzer - CTA RPM
- Kim Proia - CTP RPM
- Cindi Mortimer - CTP RPM
- Mark Wisthuff, CTA-CTP
- Brian Spillie – SQN
- Jacki Reyes – Purple Group
- Felip Ballesteros – Purple Group
- Victoria Medrano – Purple Group
- Annet Miranda – Purple Group

Attendees: 33 signed in

Attendees included:

- Alderman Harry Osterman - 48th Ward

Participant Questions:

- Will the CTA be open to doing free advertising for affected small businesses, or discounted advertising? Such as posters on platforms?
 - We've engaged a marketing communications firm to develop an Open for Business campaign inclusive of specific strategies to help business owners before, during and after construction. Details are forthcoming, and we will consistently update businesses in the community.
- Regarding the temporary stations, how will the CTA buses be rerouted? Would traffic that normally enters on Bryn Mawr be rerouted to the temporary station?
 - The project's contractor is currently doing design work for the project and will determine construction scheduling for Lawrence-to Bryn Mawr work. Once schedules are determined, we will be able to determine temporary service changes that will be necessary to connect passengers with temporary stations. We will provide advance notification to our customers of service changes throughout the project.
- People are going to enter through Broadway? How is that going to work?
 - We will provide the public with details about the temporary stations at Argyle, including where the station entrances will be, at a future date and well in advance of the opening of the temporary stations.
- When is the Bryn Mawr temporary station supposed to be open?
 - The Bryn Mawr temporary station is expected to open at the end of 2020 to early 2021. We will provide updates to the community on the timing of the openings at a future date.
- Are there any considerations for the residents who have to walk in the winter time and night time?
 - The temporary stations at Argyle and Bryn Mawr will be located very closely to the original stations. We will meet with members of the community to make sure everyone knows how to access transit and will update our signage to make it easy for our customers to get to where they need to go. Safety is a top priority and we will work with the community and local aldermen on safety features at our stations.
- Will there be 24-hour construction work or just during daylight?
 - The construction schedule is still in progress. We will be updating you as these plans become more concrete. Generally speaking, typical work hours will be 7 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. However, certain activities are better suited for off-peak hours when there is less impact to train service, vehicular, bike, and pedestrian traffic, etc. All activities will be scheduled to minimize impact to the community.
- Did you have to make traffic one way at any point during Wilson?
 - Altering traffic patterns is done as needed and is specific to individual project needs. The RPM project will have traffic impacts and advance notification of those will be provided to the public.
- Will there be SSA dollars available to the businesses affected? For instance I'm thinking about doing a valet service.

- We are working closely with the local chambers of commerce and Ald. Osterman's office to identify resources for the businesses. The local Chambers are better able to identify what is possible with SSA dollars.
- How is construction going to affect parking?
 - Alternative parking will be made available to people and businesses whose access to parking is affected because of project construction. We will provide plenty of notice about parking impacts and work with individual residents on alternative parking.
- Is there any data from previous construction projects on how traffic and foot traffic was impacted in affected areas or how much revenue declined for affected businesses? For example when the Belmont station was renovated, is there data on how foot traffic was decreased or reports on how businesses did for that year?
 - We have tracked economic development before and after major transit investments, including the Brown Line Capacity Expansion Project (2006-2009), Cermak-McCormick Place Green Line station (2015) and Morgan Green/Pink Line station (2012) in the West Loop. In all cases, business permit applications and property values rose as new development followed our investment into new stations. More recently, near the recently reconstructed Wilson Red/Purple station, the area has seen a surge in new residential construction and new businesses opening near the station.
- Do you have any more concrete dates? I'm asking because you started construction already but don't start major construction until next winter.
 - We do not yet have concrete dates on the RPM Phase One construction because the contractor is still in the process of doing design work for the project. What is currently going in is advance work ahead of major construction, which is the relocation of utility lines and equipment to make room for the new track structure that will be built. As construction schedules are finalized, we will update the community.
- I'm right next door to Bryn Mawr, how long will those sidewalks be closed?
 - We will provide that information at a future date.
- Have you determined where the staging area is going to be in our neighborhood?
 - Most construction-related equipment will be stored on vacant property that is owned by CTA.
- Why would you dig up the alley on May 6th and then do nothing and block the alley?
 - The rainy weather has affected the progress of utility work; however, that work is expected to be completed soon.
- Are you working simultaneously on all 4 stations?
 - Yes, we will reconstruct all four stations simultaneously.
- What's a learning point from Wilson? Was that project delayed?
 - The success of the Wilson project was in part due to the open communication lines we maintained between the community and CTA. We are committed to doing the same throughout the RPM project.
- I'm a new owner and I invested all my money into my business, how is this going to impact my business and my hiring and how is CTA going to help my business?

- A modernized transit system is good for local businesses, bringing customers into storefronts and encouraging new development and investment in neighborhoods. CTA believes it is important to, at every step, work closely with businesses as we perform the actual work to modernize our rail structure. We will provide notification of all work ahead of time and make arrangements for business deliveries as needed. We also have hired an outside consultant to develop an Open for Business program to promote local businesses during construction through signage, advertising, online and social media, etc. and we will strongly encourage all of our contractors to patronize local businesses.

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The project funds CTA is utilizing to construct the RPM Phase One Project are not permitted to be used to provide financial support to private businesses. At this time, CTA is not aware of any outside funding sources for local businesses during construction but we are actively exploring partnerships with third parties that can provide small businesses with consulting assistance during the construction period.

- Does the Open for Business campaign run for just the beginning of the project or throughout the project?
 - It would run throughout the project's duration through project completion in 2025.
- My customers don't use the train at all, they have to drive to my shop and we have a lot of deliveries that need to get into my shop, can you turn Winthrop into a two-way street instead of a one-way street to get people to our shops?
A Traffic Control Plan will be created with specific accommodations procedures for things like deliveries. Businesses will be consulted for input on this plan.
- Do we have the budget to maintain the design of Argyle or design more and build out the neighborhood with artwork?
 - The station design will be shared with the public at a future date, and we are planning to incorporate artwork at each of the new stations we are building, including Argyle.
- Last meeting in April, someone said there was going to be a Bryn Mawr committee. Has that started yet?
 - As this project moves forward, we want to make sure that everyone gets the information they need. To that end, we will be meeting with individual or small groups of blocks to provide customi

Meeting Adjourned: 11:00 AM

Next Meeting: LBMM – Berwyn to Bryn Mawr / Meet the Contractor Resident Meeting

Date/Time: Thursday, 5/23/2019 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Location: St. Ita Catholic Church, 5500 N Broadway