



## **“Meet the Contractor” Community Meeting Summary Report: Lawrence to Argyle Business Owners**

**Date:** May 21, 2019

**Start Time:** 9:10 AM

**Location:** Somerset Place – 5009 North Sheridan Road

### **Speakers:**

- Alderman Harry Osterman (48th Ward)
- Dagobert Beek (Walsh-Fluor)
- Tammy Chase (CTA-RPM)
- Jeff Wilson (CTA-RPM)

### **Support:**

- Chynna Hampton - CTA Workforce Initiatives
- Shavon Moore - CTA DBE/SBE Certification
- Katherene Cuza - CTA DBE
- LaTrice Phillips-Thompson – CTA RPM
- Michal Williams - CTA RPM
- John Titzer - CTA RPM
- Kim Proia - CTP RPM
- Cindi Mortimer - CTP RPM
- Jamie Simone – ESP
- Marcy Jensen – Walsh-Fluor
- Brian Spillie – SQN
- Jacki Reyes – Purple Group
- Felip Ballesteros – Purple Group
- Laritza Lopez – Purple Group
- Jami Jacobs – Purple Group
- Annet Miranda – Purple Group
- Victoria Medrano – Purple Group
- Ruben Koolman – Purple Group

**Attendees:** 34

### **Attendees included:**

- Alderman Harry Osterman - 48th Ward
- Mat Trewartha – 46<sup>th</sup> Ward
- Kevin Nguyen - Vietnamese Association of Illinois
- PJ Powers - Time Line Theater
- Martin Sorge - Uptown United

- San O - South East Asian Center
- Tam Nguyen - Chinese Mutual Aid Association
- Hoa Loan - Pho Loan Restaurant
- Pat McShane - American Metro Bank
- Terry Ninoy - Weiss Memorial Hospital

### **Participant Questions:**

- What's the plan for the crumbling concrete that supports the embankment? Hopefully it's not throwing on a patch and waiting for the adjacent wall to fall.  
We will reconstruct or repair all track structure, including embankment and viaducts.
- Are there plans to include non-English signage during construction for the ESL business owners and residents?
  - Yes, we intend to provide non-English signage during construction.
- The lot next to Uptown Lounge will be closed for construction; what will be done about the garbage cans that sit in the lot since there is no alley?
  - Our contractor is required to accommodate garbage pickup for residents and businesses whose alleys are affected by construction. We will work with affected people and businesses individually to solve these issues.
- What will be done about the impacted parking lots / spots?
  - Alternative parking will be provided, and we will give you plenty of notice before the need to ensure you have the time to plan.
- Is it possible to look at permit parking for residents while visitor parking is impacted?
  - Answered by Alderman Osterman who shared with his constituents that he is not a proponent of permit parking.
- Concerns about June 1st lot closure.
  - The CTA owns the lot at 1130 W. Lawrence and will continue to allow parking there until the lot is needed for construction. CTA will provide advance notification ahead of closing the lot.
- What is CTA doing to help businesses survive?
  - 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. 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.

- There have been some challenges with tax increases; is it possible to look at property taxes (potentially tax break or freeze)?
  - The CTA is not able to address tax issues – the City is the taxing body and would need to be asked that question.

**Meeting Adjourned:** 10:47 AM

**Next Meeting:** LBMM – Lawrence to Argyle / Meet the Contractor Resident Meeting

**Date/Time:** Wednesday, 5/22/2019 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

**Location:** The Edge Theater, 5451 N. Broadway