



“Meet the Contractor” Community Meeting Summary Report – Lawrence to Argyle Residents

Date: May 22, 2019

Start Time: 6:00 PM

Location: The Edge Theater – 5451 N Broadway

Speakers:

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

Support:

- LaTrice Phillips-Thompson – CTA/RPM
- Michal Williams - CTA RPM
- John Titzer - CTA RPM
- Kim Proia - CTP RPM
- Katrina Denny -- CTA-RPM
- Carrie Wagener – CTA-RPM
- Steve Hands – CTA-RPM
- Cindi Mortimer - CTP RPM
- Marcy Jensen – Walsh-Fluor
- Brian Spillie – SQN
- Jacki Reyes – Purple Group
- Felip Ballesteros – Purple Group
- Laritza Lopez – Purple Group
- Victoria Medrano – Purple Group
- Ruben Koolman – Purple Group

Attendees: 33 signed in

Attendees included:

- Alderman Harry Osterman - 48th Ward
- Matt Trewartha – 46th Ward

Participant Questions:

- Can you speak to the slow zone between Sheridan and Wilson? Will this project address/correct that?
That is a separate issue that will be addressed in a future phase of RPM.

- It was previously proposed consolidating some of these stations as part of RPM since they're so close together right now. Why were these proposals nixed?
 - Every station in the RPM corridor will be reconstructed (except for Wilson, which was rebuilt in 2017) over multiple phases. There are no plans to consolidate stations, so we can maintain convenient rail access for our customers.
- Will the CTA be running more 147 buses during this project?
 - Supplemental bus service will be provided as needed.
- Will the design of Argyle station keep its pagoda roof?
 - The roof itself will not be incorporated in the new station design; however, there are plans to keep it within the community. It will not disappear.
- Can there be a dedicated bus lane on LSD during this project?
 - At this early stage, specific transit options are undetermined. We will assess several alternative routes, supplemental bus scheduling, dedicated buses and other measures to provide additional transit options to customers.
- I live in a high rise with 281 apartments about 1/2 block from the Lawrence stop. How do we get the Lawrence bus?
 - As construction schedules are finalized, CTA will determine what temporary service changes are necessary to accommodate our customers. We will provide advance notification of bus route changes to local residents and businesses.
- Accessibility includes getting to the bus stop and train stops as well as getting on the train or bus. How will you guarantee accessibility?
 - We will relocate bus stops as needed and ensure they are located in places that are accessible to the public.
- CTA says this will last 6 years. Will this be done in stages? Will the Lawrence and Argyle stops be done first then the rest done?
 - All four stations will be constructed simultaneously.
- Will we get electronic versions of the slides & answers?
 - Yes, the presentation has been posted in the CTA website, RPM section, What's New page. Here is the actual link to the presentation:
https://www.transitchicago.com/assets/1/6/Meet_the_Contractor_LBMM_May_21-22-23_FINAL.pdf
- What will be done about access to park, parking when access is not available and garbage pickup.
 - Alternative parking will be provided and garbage service will be provided as needed. If you have an individual concern, we will work you personally to solve the issue.
- I live closest to the Argyle stop, and I park in the back where the L is located. Will we be blocked/restricted from our parking spaces?
 - We will work individually with people and businesses whose parking access is affected by construction work.
- Is the strip mall just north of Lawrence going to be used for staging?
 - No, it will not.

- Will all the stations be closed at the same time or some opened and some closed?
 - Yes, all stations will close and be rebuilt at the same time. Lawrence and Berwyn will be closed during the entirety of the construction, and temporary stations will be built at Argyle and Bryn Mawr to serve customers.
- How long is the Lawrence stop going to be closed?
 - Lawrence is anticipated to be closed for more than three years.
- Why not just shut the whole system down to cut the project in half and use buses from Wilson to Howard
 - The Red Line is a main artery of the transit system, providing service to more than 150,000 riders each day. It is too critical to the city's transportation network and service must be maintained during construction.
- Are there plans to renovate the stations between Thorndale and Jarvis after this project is complete?
 - This is not part of the RPM Phase One project, though these stations will be rebuilt in a future phase of RPM. CTA is in the process of determining future phases and identifying potential funding sources. to continue modernizing our transit system.
- Will the updated track and stations enable the Red Line to move more commuters during peak times or faster?
 - Yes, that is the plan. This, along with the bypass, will add up to eight more Red Line trains per hour during rush periods, accommodating up to 7,200 more passengers per hour on the Red, Brown and Purple lines during rush periods, which is 30% more than today.
- What is the plan for supporting the businesses by providing tax relief or other breaks for them while the construction is ongoing?
 - CTA plans to develop an Open for Business campaign that includes identifying resources to connect business owners with grants, work closely with city government and the Chambers of Commerce.
- I know this may been mentioned, but when will construction start at the Argyle station during this modernization process?
 - The reconstruction of Lawrence, Argyle, Berwyn and Bryn Mawr is expected to begin in late 2020 to early 2021. We will provide updated information on the timing once construction schedules are further developed..
- How long will the Argyle station will be shut down during its modernization?
 - There will be a temporary Argyle station built at Argyle to provide customers with access to the Red Line. The station reconstructions are expected to take more than three years.
- What is the staging on loss of alley access (and garage access) along Broadway?
 - The contractor is still in the process of project design and developing construction plans. We will provide advance notification of alley closures and intend to provide regular project updates to the community throughout the project.

- Will you elaborate on what you meant that bus options (LSD lane, more buses) are being considered? Why has that not been decided as part of other planning?
 - 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 and when extra service is needed, and we'll provide advance notification to our customers of service changes throughout the project.
- Exactly what impact will the signaling system upgrade have on day-to-day train operations this year?
 - Upgrading our signaling system is critical to improving our rail service. Because we need to do track improvement and reconstruction work while maintaining rail service throughout the project, there will be impacts to service that will include delays. We will continue to update the public about the work we're doing and the timing of service impacts.
- Is there a staging area and where is it?
 - Most construction-related equipment will be stored on vacant property that is owned by CTA.
- The CTA is updating the tracks, will they be updating the trains too?
 - The CTA is in the process of purchasing new rail cars, known as the 7000-series. The modernization of CTA rail cars is an effort that is separate from the RPM project and is funded separately.
- Will the Purple line be adding additional stops when the new stations are opened?
 - Phase One of the RPM project does not include adding Purple Line Express stops at Lawrence, Argyle, Berwyn or Bryn Mawr. Purple Line Express access is available at the Wilson station.
- Will the temporary stations be accessible?
 - The temporary stations will not be accessible but the new permanent stations will be fully accessible with elevator access.

Meeting Adjourned: 8:00 PM

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

Date/Time: Thursday, 5/23/2019 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Location: St. Ita Catholic Church, 5500 N Broadway