



## THE VIRGINIA AVENUE TUNNEL

### Virginia Avenue Tunnel Open House August 13, 2015

The Virginia Avenue Tunnel Project Team hosted an open house for community members at the Courtyard Marriott on Thursday, August 13, 2015. CSX project team members as well as representatives from the design and construction partner, Clark/Parsons, and the Community Fund third-party administrator, Near Southeast Community Partners, discussed recent project activities, answered questions, and provided updates about what residents can expect in the weeks and months ahead.



At the meeting, attendees were able to visit stations focused on a range of topics from the next 120 days of planned construction activities to environmental compliance and the Community Mitigation Fund. Each station was staffed with a subject matter expert to provide more details and answer questions.



At the event, CSX was proud to welcome special guest Bernadette Edwards, Public Space Manager at DC Public Space Regulation Administration. Ms. Edwards discussed the public input process for the final restoration of Virginia Avenue, and reminded residents that they can provide feedback on the restoration plans during a 30-business-day review period from August 20 to October 15. At the conclusion of the review period, the DDOT Public Space Committee will hold a special meeting to provide their feedback on the plans, evaluate community recommendations and make a final decision about the scope and nature of the restorations to be implemented.

Another facet of the project that was featured at the meeting was cross-street bridges. Chuck Gullakson, CSX assistant vice president - National Gateway / Virginia Avenue Tunnel, talked with residents about the installation of Phase 1 cross-street bridges, which is expected to start during August 2015. The majority of the work will be completed by 2016. Cross streets will remain open during construction, and the project team will install temporary bridges over the excavation areas in order to maintain safe access for vehicles, bicycles and pedestrians.

“We appreciate residents’ ongoing interest in Virginia Avenue Tunnel project activities,” Chuck Gullakson, assistant vice president - National Gateway / Virginia Avenue Tunnel. “One of CSX’s promises is to keep residents up-to-date on the tunnel project and we hope that residents find

these meetings informative. Our team certainly values the open communications we've been experiencing with our neighbors."

All information from the meeting [can be viewed](#) online at [www.virginiaavenuetunnel.com](http://www.virginiaavenuetunnel.com). To learn more about ways to stay informed about the project, please see the Community Resources Information Sheet. We invite you to join our email list, follow us on Twitter (@VATNews) and visit us at the Community Office located at 861 New Jersey Avenue SE.

