



## THE VIRGINIA AVENUE TUNNEL

April 2, 2015

Dear Neighbor:

As part of the Virginia Avenue Tunnel Reconstruction Project, CSX is providing a \$650,000 Supplemental Community Mitigation Fund to offset temporary inconveniences resulting from the project and to support neighborhood enhancements. A committee comprising members of the local community will help decide how the Community Fund is allocated and a Third Party Administrator will disperse the funds in phases during project construction.

CSX is pleased to announce that Near Southeast Community Partners (NSC-Partners) has been selected as the Third Party Administrator, in accordance with the Federal Highway Administration's November 2014 [Record of Decision](#).

NSC-Partners, a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, is a network comprising neighbors, organizations and businesses that are committed to creating a vibrant riverfront community, including the areas in and around the reconstruction activities. In selecting a Third Party Administrator, CSX considered multiple organizations and based the final decision on a number of factors, including the organization's level of experience, track record of success, familiarity with the local area, and understanding and alignment with the goals of the Community Fund per the requirements of the Record of Decision.

We recognize that there is substantial interest in the community about how the Community Fund will be administered and the resources distributed. Outlined below are the four components of the process that will be implemented to establish the Community Fund:

### **Establishment of a Community Committee**

- The first step is to form a Community Committee that is open to individuals within ANC 6D and ANC 6B, representatives of community associations, local environmental groups, elected officials and businesses in the vicinity of the construction area.
- Interested community members are encouraged to learn more about the Community Committee and the process for applying to be a part of the committee. Please visit <http://bit.ly/1NAyA9Y> for more information. Applications to join the committee are available now, and should be submitted by April 17, 2015, for consideration.
- As the Third Party Administrator, NSC-Partners will select the Community Committee and manage the application process, but will not serve on the committee or make funding decisions.

### **Criteria Development**

- Jointly, the Community Committee and the Third Party Administrator will develop criteria to evaluate the eligibility of requests for monetary support for both community enhancements and individual temporary inconvenience payments for non-Front Row Residents.
- Once the draft evaluation criteria are developed, community feedback will be invited and encouraged.

## Applying for Funds

- Non-Front Row Residents experiencing temporary inconveniences as a result of the reconstruction project and community organizations interested in funding for community enhancements are encouraged to apply for funding. The Community Committee will review individual requests as well as neighborhood enhancement project proposals.
- Applications may be submitted either online or via mail, with both options available. The community will be notified via multiple traditional and electronic communications methods as well as through the CSX and NSC-Partners websites when access to the funding application is available. To sign up for email alerts, please visit <http://www.virginiaavenuetunnel.com/contact>.
- In accordance with the Record of Decision, Front Row residents and residents of the Arthur Capper Senior Apartments, who are eligible to participate in other mitigation programs, are not eligible for funds from the Supplemental Community Mitigation Fund.

## Review and Notification Process

- The Community Committee will review and evaluate funding requests using the approved criteria through a fair, transparent and unbiased process.
- The Third Party Administrator will notify applicants about funding decisions within 10 business days of the Community Committee's decisions and will administer payments to eligible parties.

We appreciate your interest in the Virginia Avenue Tunnel Reconstruction Project. Over the coming weeks and months, we will continue to provide information and resources about what to expect and how to participate.

For more information about the project, we encourage you to visit [www.virginiaavenuetunnel.com](http://www.virginiaavenuetunnel.com), stop by the CSX Community Office or call CSX at (800) 494-1049.

Thank you!

CSX and the Virginia Avenue Tunnel Team