



THE VIRGINIA AVENUE TUNNEL

January 8, 2016

Dear Neighbors:

CSX and the Clark/Parsons JV construction team made significant progress on the Virginia Avenue Tunnel project in 2015. More than half of the necessary support pilings have been drilled, 4,500 truckloads of soil have been excavated, 4,400 cubic yards of concrete have been poured and the more than 150 workers deployed onsite have achieved an excellent safety record. The project is going well and we remain on schedule to complete it in 2018, within the 30- to 42-month timeframe described in the Federal Highway Administration's Record of Decision (ROD) which authorized the project. The entire team appreciates the input and participation we've received from residents throughout this process, and we look forward to continuing to develop our relationship with the Virginia Avenue community.

Very soon we will initiate a new phase of the project, when we start demolishing a 370-foot section of the existing tunnel between the west portal and 3rd Street, S.E. You may recall from discussions at public meetings and project documents that it is necessary for us to demolish this short portion of the existing tunnel early in the construction process. Train traffic will be stopped and demolition of the tunnel roof will be completed using excavators equipped with hydraulic hammers and other accessories. The tunnel debris will be collected in trucks that will operate in the tunnel, hauling the material to the nearby CSX New Jersey Yard for processing and recycling (this route was specifically coordinated to minimize the need to haul any of the demolition debris over public streets).

This is a unique phase of the project both because of the work involved and because it requires very close coordination with the ongoing operations of the railroad. Demolition activities must be integrated into the schedule for freight operations as well as the windows of time when freight traffic is embargoed to avoid conflicting with commuter operations that enter the freight corridor just west of the tunnel.

Based on the railroad's network-wide operational constraints, including consideration for maintaining scheduled commuter operations, the demolition work must occur during the early morning hours of each weekday: workday preparations and safety inspections will start as early as 4:30 a.m. and actual demolition activities will start as early as 5:30 a.m., continuing to late morning. This work is planned to begin on Monday, January 18, 2016, and is estimated to continue into late March or early April. (Demolition will begin no earlier than 7 a.m. on Jan. 18th; it will begin as early as 5:30 a.m. on Jan. 19th and thereafter.) In addition to the weekday work, there may be up to four consecutive Sunday nights (January 24, January 31, February 7 and February 14) when work will start between 7 and 9 p.m. and continue until Monday morning.

CSX has coordinated extensively with the District Department of Transportation to optimize the time windows when this work will occur, to limit the impact on the community to the greatest extent possible. DDOT has thoroughly reviewed CSX's demolition plan, to ensure that the most appropriate construction methods are being employed to minimize effects on the surrounding community and to expedite this activity into the shortest possible timeframe. We recognize that some residences and businesses near the demolition work may experience intermittent increases in noise levels [estimated noise levels were presented in the Final EIS and feasible mitigation measures were specified in the ROD

approved by the Federal Highway Administration] and the project team will implement all reasonable and feasible mitigation efforts to limit those effects, as required by the ROD.

To limit the potential impact as much as possible CSX will implement several of the mitigation techniques listed in the ROD, and we expect these measures will help to reduce noise levels outside the project limits of disturbance (LOD). The most effective and feasible mitigation measures we expect to be employed include:

- Temporary noise shields composed of noise-dampening blankets at appropriate locations north, south, east and west of the demolition site.
- Noise dampening blankets installed on perimeter fencing at locations where monitoring shows them to be effective.
- Use of best-in-class demolition equipment to minimize mechanical noise generated from the equipment itself
- Directing construction crews and vehicle operators to minimize travel near adjacent residences and businesses and restricting all possible site access to only the western entrances from H Street and 2nd Street before normal project hours, limiting or avoiding entirely any traffic at the 3rd Street entrance to the work area before 7 a.m.

Real-time monitoring of noise, vibration and air quality will continue to be conducted during all construction activities in accordance with the environmental commitments contained in the Final EIS / ROD and the DDOT-approved environmental monitoring plans. Proactive measures will be constantly employed to minimize disruption or annoyance to the surrounding community as much as possible.

Lighting for early morning construction activities can be potentially intrusive to the closest residences. Temporary lights will be directed away from adjacent properties to prevent such intrusions to the greatest extent possible while providing for worker safety.

Finally, CSX and the tunnel construction team will work diligently to compress the timeframe that is required to complete this work. Current estimates indicate that the work will require several months, but every possible means will be employed to maximize our productivity and minimize the total duration of the early morning effort. We apologize for any inconvenience that this work may cause.

We expect that residents may have questions about this work, and we will be glad to answer them to the best of our ability. As always, we welcome communication through the project's dedicated toll-free phone number, 800-494-1049, through email to VAT@CSX.com and through the project website at www.virginiaavenuetunnel.com/contact. We'd also be glad to answer questions at the project's next Open House meeting, Thursday, January 28, at the Courtyard Marriott Hotel.

Sincerely,

The Virginia Avenue Tunnel Project Team