



APPENDIX H Public Involvement



Western/Ashland BRT Public Notification Activities

Community Outreach

Project information was also posted on CTA’s Western/Ashland BRT website and social media sites. News releases were also sent to local media outlets.

Meetings with Stakeholders

September 18, 2013 – The Resurrection Project and the Greater Pilsen Economic Development Association

September 18, 2013 – North Branch Works

September 17, 2013 – Chicago Grand Neighbors Association

September 16, 2013 – University Village Association-Little Italy

September 11, 2013 – Illinois Medical District Commission

September 4, 2013 – Wicker Park Committee

August 21, 2013 – Martha Goldstein, West Loop Community Organization (by phone)

August 20, 2013 – Back of the Yards Neighborhood Council

August 5, 2013 – East Village Association

February 20, 2013 – The Industrial Council of Nearwest Chicago

January 24, 2013 – Ashland Avenue-Western Avenue Coalition (Comprising Near West Side Chamber of Commerce, Near West Side Community Development Corporation, Randolph/Fulton Market Association, West Central Association, and West Town Chamber of Commerce); Aldermen in attendance: Representative for Bob Fioretti, 2nd Ward; Representative for Walter Burnett, Jr., 27th Ward; Jason Ervin, 28th Ward; Scott Waguespack, 32nd Ward. State Representative Derrick Smith also in attendance.

August 1, 2012 – Logan Square and Wicker Park Chambers of Commerce



Area Design Meetings

Design meetings were held with community organizations to receive feedback on the proposed alternative. Community leaders were able to comment on conceptual designs of the Ashland roadway geometry specifically within their community. Two rounds were held, the first showing the groups the preferred roadway design and the second displaying modifications that could be incorporated within Final Design.

Second Round Meetings

August 13, 2013 – Pilsen (Comprising Eighteenth Street Development and the Resurrection Project)

July 29, 2013 – Illinois Medical District (Comprising Illinois Medical District Commission)

July 19, 2013 – Kinzie Industrial Corridor (Comprising Industrial Council of Nearwest Chicago and Reliable Plating)

July 17, 2013 – Wicker Park/West Town (Comprising West Central Association, Wicker Park – Bucktown Chamber of Commerce, East Village Association, West Town Chamber of Commerce and Wicker Park Committee)

First Round Meetings

July 8, 2013 – Pilsen II (Comprising Pilsen Neighbors Community Council)

June 26, 2013 – University Village/ Back of the Yards (Comprising University Village Association/Little Italy and Back of the Yards Neighborhood Council)

June 19, 2013 – Illinois Medical District (Comprising Illinois Medical District Commission)

June 19, 2013 – Pilsen I (Comprising Eighteenth Street Development Corporation and the Resurrection Project)

June 18, 2013 – Kinzie Industrial Corridor/West Loop (Comprising Randolph/Fulton Market Association and Rickard Circular Bindery)

June 18, 2013 – Wicker Park/West Town (Comprising West Central Association, Wicker Park-Bucktown Chamber of Commerce, West Town Chamber of Commerce and Wicker Park Committee)

June 18, 2013 – Kinzie Industrial Corridor (Comprising Industrial Council of Nearwest Chicago and North Branch Works)



Public Open House Meetings and Associated Outreach

October 16 – October 18, 2012 Public Open House Meetings

October 16, 2012 – Iglesia Rebaño Church 2435 W. Division St. Chicago, IL 60622

October 17, 2012 – Lindblom Math and Science Academy 6130 S. Wolcott Ave. Chicago, IL 60636

October 18, 2012 – Lane Tech College Prep High School 2501 W. Addison St. Chicago, IL 60618

Postcards

October 1, 2012 – postcards mailed to a list of 823 stakeholders.

Transit cards

October 5, 2012 – transit cards posted on all bus routes

October 10, 2012 – English and Spanish versions of the transit cards posted at selected rail stations

E-Blasts

October 3, 2012 – invitation to upcoming Public Open Houses e-mailed to 424 e-mail addresses of interested parties and individuals

Newspaper Display Advertisements

October 2, 2012 – Hoy

October 3, 2012 – Chicago Sun Times

October 3, 2012 – Chicago Defender

October 3, 2012 – Beverly Review

October 4, 2012 – Evanston Review

October 4, 2012 – Chicago Journal

October 7, 2012 – La Raza

Flyers (Printed in English and Spanish)

For the October Public Open Houses, flyers were mailed to City libraries on database list with a request to post them.

June 12 – June 14, 2012 Public Open House Meetings

June 12, 2012 – 7th District Police Station 1438 W. 63rd St. Chicago, IL 60636

June 13, 2012 – Lane Tech College Prep High School 2501 W. Addison St. Chicago, IL 60618

June 14, 2012 – Wells Community Academy High School 936 N. Ashland Ave. Chicago, IL 60622

Postcards

May 22, 2012 – postcards mailed to a list of 438 stakeholders.



Transit cards

May 23, 2012 – transit cards posted at selected rail stations and on selected bus routes

May 25, 2012 – Spanish version of the transit cards posted at selected rail stations

E-Blasts

May 22, 2012 – invitation to upcoming Public Open House e-mailed to 373 e-mail addresses of interested parties and individuals.

Newspaper Display Advertisements

May 23, 2012 – Chicago Sun Times

May 23, 2012 – Chicago Defender

May 23, 2012 – Beverly Review

May 24, 2012 – Hoy

May 24, 2012 – Chicago Journal

May 25, 2012 – Our Village

May 27, 2012 – La Raza

May 31, 2012 – Evanston Review

Flyers (Printed in English and Spanish)

June 5, 2012 – Active Transportation Alliance (ATA) passed out flyers at Western stop on Pink Line

June 7, 2012 – ATA passed out flyers at Western stop on Brown Line

June 11, 2012 – ATA passed out flyers at Ashland stop on Green Line

June 12, 2012 – ATA passed out flyers at Western stop on Blue Line, O’Hare branch

Flyers also mailed to select City libraries with a request to post them.

Elected Officials Briefings

July 2013 Outreach

Meetings with Aldermen:

- July 10, 2013 – Ald. Daniel Solis, 25th Ward

June 2013 Outreach

Meetings with Aldermen:

- June 17, 2013 – Ald. Walter Burnett, 27th Ward
- June 24, 2013 – Ald. Jason Ervin, 28th Ward



February 2013 Outreach

Meetings with Aldermen:

- February 11, 2013 – Ald. Debra Silverstein, 50th Ward
- February 20, 2013 – Ald. Lona Lane, 18th Ward

October 2012 Outreach

Meetings with Aldermen:

- October 2, 2012 – staff of Ald. Thomas Tunney, 44th Ward
- October 9, 2012 – Ald. Walter Burnett, 27th Ward
- October 10, 2012 – Ald. Willie Cochran, 20th Ward
- October 10, 2012 – Ald. Debra Silverstein, 50th Ward
- October 11, 2012 – staff of Ald. Roberto Maldonado, 26th Ward
- October 16, 2012 – Ald. George Cardenas, 12th Ward
- October 16, 2012 – Ald. Scott Waguespack, 32nd Ward
- October 17, 2012 – staff of Ald. Daniel Solis, 25th Ward
- October 23, 2012 – Ald. Proco Joe Moreno, 1st Ward

The following aldermen were also contacted and offered briefings:

- Ald. Robert Fioretti, 2nd Ward
- Ald. Pat Dowell, 3rd Ward
- Ald. James A. Balcer, 11th Ward
- Ald. Ed Burke, 14th Ward
- Ald. Toni Foulkes, 15th Ward
- Ald. JoAnn Thompson, 16th Ward
- Ald. Latisha Thomas, 17th Ward
- Ald. Lona Lane, 18th Ward
- Ald. Matthew O'Shea, 19th Ward
- Ald. Howard B. Brookins Jr., 21st Ward
- Ald. Jason Ervin, 28th Ward
- Ald. Carrie M. Austin, 34th Ward
- Ald. Patrick J. O'Conner, 40th Ward
- Ald. James Cappleman, 46th Ward
- Ald. Ameya Pawar, 47th Ward
- Ald. Harry Osterman, 48th Ward
- Ald. Joseph A. Moore, 49th Ward



May/June/July 2012 Outreach

Meetings with Aldermen:

- May 23, 2012 – Ald. James A. Balcer, 11th Ward
- May 25, 2012 – Ald. Daniel Solis, 25th Ward
- May 29, 2012 – Ald. Roberto Maldonado, 26th Ward
- May 31, 2012 – Ald. James Cappleman, 46th Ward
- May 31, 2012 – Ald. Willie Cochran, 20th Ward
- June 4, 2012 – Ald. George Cardenas, 12th Ward
- June 5, 2012 – Ald. Carrie M. Austin, 34th Ward
- June 5, 2012 – Ald. Toni Foulkes, 15th Ward
- June 7, 2012 – Ald. JoAnn Thompson, 16th Ward
- July 2, 2012 – Ald. Matthew O'Shea, 19th Ward
- July 3, 2012 – Ald. Walter Burnett, 27th Ward

The following aldermen were also contacted and offered briefings:

- Ald. Proco Joe Moreno, 1st Ward
- Ald. Robert Fioretti, 2nd Ward
- Ald. Pat Dowell, 3rd Ward
- Ald. Ed Burke, 14th Ward
- Ald. Latisha Thomas, 17th Ward
- Ald. Lona Lane, 18th Ward
- Ald. Howard B. Brookins Jr., 21st Ward
- Ald. Jason Ervin, 28th Ward
- Ald. Scott Waguespack, 32nd Ward
- Ald. Patrick J. O'Conner, 40th Ward
- Ald. Thomas Tunney, 44th Ward
- Ald. Ameya Pawar, 47th Ward
- Ald. Harry Osterman, 48th Ward
- Ald. Joseph A. Moore, 49th Ward
- Ald. Debra Silverstein, 50th Ward

Non-CTA-led Outreach

Active Transportation Alliance (Active Trans)

For the October 2012 Public Open Houses, Active Trans contacted interest groups, posted information on their organization's social media pages, and provided infographic information to the media.



Metropolitan Planning Council (MPC)

For the October 2012 Public Open Houses, MPC communicated information via social media and sent letters to 40 property owners along the corridor.

MPC also reached out to the following Aldermen:

- December 8, 2011 – Ald. Joseph A. Moore, 49th Ward
- December 8, 2011 – Ald. Willie Cochran, 20th Ward
- January 10, 2012 – Ald. Toni Foulkes, 15th Ward
- January 13, 2012 – Ald. Howard B. Brookins Jr., 21st Ward
- January 17, 2012 – Ald. Latasha Thomas, 17th Ward
- January 23, 2012 – Ald. James Balcer, 11th Ward
- January 25, 2012 – Ald. Joe Moreno, 1st Ward
- January 25, 2012 – Ald. Scott Waguespack, 32nd Ward
- January 27, 2012 – Ald. James Cappelman, 46th Ward
- February 1, 2012 – Ald. Walter Burnett, 27th Ward
- February 1, 2012 – Ald. Debra Silverstein, 50th Ward
- February 16, 2012 – Ald. Danny Solis, 25th Ward
- February 22, 2012 – Ald. Ameya Pawar, 47th Ward
- March 27, 2012 – Ald. Lona Lane, 18th Ward

A briefing was also held on February 22, 2012 at the 1st Ward Community Meeting.

MPC and Active Trans Meetings

MPC and Active Trans also worked with Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) to meet with a number of members of their New Communities Partnership lead agencies, which took place on April 23, 2012. Beyond efforts to schedule individual meetings with the community organizations listed below, all were invited to attend one of the following three BRT sessions:

- May 24, 2012 (25th Ward presented by ATA with Alderman Solis)
- May 30, 2012 at Active Trans
- January 10, 2012 – Ald. Toni Foulkes, 15th Ward

The following table lists each community organization that MPC and Active Trans reached out to. While MPC/Active Trans has met with 31 of these organizations, every organization listed below has been called, emailed, and has received informational materials about BRT and the Western/Ashland Avenues Alternatives Analysis public meetings hosted by CTA and CDOT.

MPC and Active Trans met with the following 31 Organizations:

- 17th Ward Community Redevelopment Advisory Council
- Back of the Yards
- Bickerdike Redevelopment Corporation
- Edgewater Chamber of Commerce
- Enlace



- Greater Auburn-Gresham Development Corp.
- Greater West Town Community Development Project
- Humboldt Park LISC*
- ICNC
- Lakeview Chamber of Commerce
- Lincoln Bend Chamber of Commerce
- Lincoln Square Chamber of Commerce
- LISC/MetroEdge
- March 27, 2012 – Ald. Lona Lane, 18th Ward
- Little Village LISC
- Logan Square Chamber of Commerce
- Logan Square Neighborhood Association
- LVEJO
- Mercy Housing
- Near West Side Chamber of Commerce
- Near West Side Community Development Corp.
- North Center Chamber
- North River Commission
- Rogers Park Business Alliance
- Southwest Organizing Project
- Teamwork Englewood
- Washington Park Consortium
- West Central Association
- West Ridge Chamber of Commerce
- West Town Chamber of Commerce
- Wicker Park & Bucktown Chamber of Commerce

Organization listed below did not meet with MPC / Active Trans; however, they have been called, emailed, and received informational materials about BRT and the Western/Ashland Avenues Alternatives Analysis public meetings hosted by CTA and CDOT.

- 95th Street Beverly Hills Business Association
- Alevio Clinic
- Beverly Area Planning Association
- Canaryville Improvement Association
- Catholic Charities
- Chinatown Centennial Committee
- Chinese Chamber of Commerce
- Cristo Rey High School
- Division Street Business Development Association
- EcoAndersonville
- Friends of Holstein Park
- Greater Northwest Chicago Development Corporation
- Greater Southwest Development Corporation
- Instituto



- Interfaith Organizing Project
- Juarez High School
- Lakeview High School
- Little Village Chamber of Commerce
- Mujeres Latinas en Accion
- Near Northwest Neighborhood Network
- North Side Alliance
- Northwest Corridor Business Organization
- Pilsen "Together" Chamber of Commerce
- Puerto Rican Chamber of Commerce of Illinois
- The Resurrection Project
- Tri-Taylor Chamber of Commerce in Little Italy
- Universidad Popular
- UNO
- West Andersonville Neighbors Together
- West Bucktown Neighborhood Association
- West Edgewater Area Residents
- West Lakeview Neighborhood Association
- West Loop Gate
- West Rogers Park Community Organization

Chicago Architectural Foundation (CAF)

October 17, 2012 – CAF hosted a Lunchtime BRT Lecture.

June 6, 2012 – CAF hosted an Evening BRT Panel Discussion.

May 14, 2012 – CAF opened Lecture Hall Exhibit on BRT to the Public.

April 25, 2012 – CAF hosted a BRT 101 Lunchtime Lecture with MPC’s Peter Skosey.

Media Summary

The following lists all media pertaining to Ashland BRT. This includes online and print publications as well as television and radio reports.

October 4, 2013 – StreetsBlog, “Residents Respond to West Town Chamber of Commerce’s Anti-BRT Stance,” John Greenfield

October 3, 2013 – ChicagoNow - Getting Real, “In A Nutshell...Why The Ashland Bus Rapid Transit Plan Is Insane,” Gary Lucido

October 3, 2013 – StreetsBlog, “Join Us for the Ashland BRT Advocate Social and Pub Stroll on October 15,” John Greenfield

October 1, 2013 – Wired, “To Attract Urban Investment, Build a Bus Line,” Keith Barry

September 30, 2013 – StreetsBlog, “While Pawar Leads on BRT, Waguespack and Cardenas Hem and Haw,” John Greenfield



September 30, 2013 - Chicago Tribune, "Getting Around: Bus rapid transit for Ashland Avenue hits road bump in Chicago," Jon Hilkevitch

September 24, 2013 – StreetsBlog, "Talking to a Concerned Mom About How Ashland BRT Will Improve Safety," John Greenfield

September 20, 2013 - Chicago Sun-Times, "Cutting lanes on Ashland a really bad idea," Herb Gould

September 19, 2013 – StreetsBlog, "Sun-Times Editorial Writer Gets BRT, Even If Its Transpo Reporter Doesn't," John Greenfield

September 19, 2013 – StreetsBlog, "Have No Fear, Ashland Residents, BRT Is a Good Fit for City Neighborhoods," Kristen Maddox

September 18, 2013 - Chicago Sun-Times, "Rapid transit buses not there yet," Greg Borzo

September 18, 2013 - WMAQ-TV Channel 5 (NBC), "Rapid Transit System Proposed For Ashland," Regina Waldroup

September 17, 2013 - Chicago Sun-Times, "Backers of Ashland bus rapid transit plan object to left-turn ban," Rosalind Rossi

September 17, 2013 - WLS-TV Channel 7 (ABC), "Ashland bus-only lane proposed from Irving Park to 95th Street," Eric Horng

September 16, 2013 - Chicago Sun-Times, "North Side residents question CTA plan for bus rapid transit on Ashland," Rosalind Rossi

September 16, 2013 – StreetsBlog, "The Ashland-Western Coalition Meets a Car-Ownning, Pro-BRT Chicagoan," John Greenfield

September 15, 2013 – Forbes, "Bus Rapid Transit Spurs Development Better Than Light Rail Or Streetcars: Study," Jeff McMahon

September 8, 2013 - Lincoln Square Patch, "CTA Makes Case for BRT, Critics Call it a 'Glorified Ashland Express Bus,'" Andy Ambrosius

September 6, 2013 – StreetsBlog, "Quigley Hosts Roundtable on Sustainable Transportation in Chicago Region," John Greenfield

September 6, 2013 - NorthCenter-RoscoeVillage Patch, "CTA Makes Case for BRT, Critics Call it a 'Glorified Ashland Express Bus,'" Andy Ambrosius

September 5, 2013 - Curbed Chicago, "CTA Presents Case (w/ Facts) for Ashland Bus Rapid Transit," Ian Spula

September 5, 2013 – DNAinfo, "City Makes Case for Ashland Express Bus Project," Darryl Holliday



September 4, 2013 – StreetsBlog, “Debating Bus Rapid Transit With the Ashland-Western Coalition,” Lindsay Bayley

September 3, 2013 – StreetsBlog, “Deconstructing the Misleading Info in an Ashland-Western Coalition Flyer,” John Greenfield

August 21, 2013 – StreetsBlog, “Ashland Bus Rapid Transit NIMBYs Cling to Anonymity,” John Greenfield

August 16, 2013 - Lake View Patch, “Petition Created to Keep BRT off Ashland, Western,” Andy Ambrosius

August 13, 2013 - Chicago Now-CTA Tattler, “Coalition fears no left turns in opposing Ashland BRT,” Kevin O’Neil

August 9, 2013 – StreetsBlog, “Chicago Already Has a “Traffic Disaster – Transit and Bikes Are the Solution,” John Greenfield

August 9, 2013 - Chicago Tribune, “The creation of a traffic disaster,” John McCarron

August 8, 2013 - Lincoln Square Patch, “Ashland-Western Coalition Calls for 'Sensible Bus Improvements' in Lieu of BRT,” Dani Chung and Carrie Frillman

August 7, 2013 – StreetsBlog, “Don’t Be Fooled: Ashland-Western Coalition Is Against “Modern” Bus Service,” John Greenfield

August 6, 2013 – DNAinfo, “Ashland Express Bus: Left Turn Reductions, Truck Traffic Raise Concerns,” Alisa Hauser

August 2, 2103 - The Gazette, “Business owners question BRT practicality as project continues,” Jane Lawicki

July 31, 2013 – StreetsBlog, “Chicago Can Do Much More to Legalize Transit-Oriented Development,” Steven Vance

July 31, 2013 – StreetsBlog, “Emanuel: BRT Part of the ‘Modernization’ of Chicago Transit,” John Greenfield

July 26, 2013 – StreetsBlog, “Survey: Most Chicagoans Support Bus Rapid Transit,” John Greenfield

July 15, 2013 – Chicagoist, “Pawar Supports Bus Rapid Transit As Group Calls It A 'Cheap L Train,’” Chuck Sudo

July 15, 2013 - DNAinfo Chicago, “Ashland Express Bus Opposed by Local Group as 'Cheap L Train,’” Kayla Gardner

July 11, 2013 – StreetsBlog, “Alderman Pawar: “I Can’t Wait for Ashland BRT,” John Greenfield



July 2, 2013 - DNAinfo.com, "Ashland Express Bus: Center Lane Project Raises Questions, Concerns," Alisa Hauser

June 27, 2013 – StreetsBlog, "Ashland Bus Rapid Transit NIMBYs Try to Win Over Aldermen," John Greenfield

June 25, 2013 – StreetsBlog, "Check Out MPC's New Video Introducing Bus Rapid Transit to Chicagoans," John Greenfield

June 24, 2013 – StreetsBlog, "Talking Transportation With Alderman Bob Fioretti," John Greenfield

June 24, 2013 - Crain's Chicago Business, "Reconsider BRT," Letter to the Editor by Jim Greenwell, president, Reliable Plating Corp. and Steve Debretto, Executive director, Industrial Council of Nearwest Chicago

June 11, 2013 – Chicagoist, "Opposition Grows To Ashland Avenue Bus Rapid Transit Project," Chuck Sudo

June 10, 2013 – StreetsBlog, "NIMBYs Fear Ashland BRT, Propose Watered-Down Express Bus Alternative," John Greenfield

June 7, 2013 - The Gazette, "Bus Service Coalition proposes alternative to Bus Rapid Transit on Ashland Avenue," Jane Lawicki

June 6, 2013 - Chicago Weekly, "The CTA plans for bus rapid transit on Ashland Avenue," Jamison Pfeifer

May 23, 2013 – StreetsBlog, "New York's Experience Shows Ashland Bus Lanes Won't Cause Carmageddon," Steven Vance

May 17, 2013 – StreetsBlog, "Businesses Win When Cars and Parking Give Way to Peds, Bikes, and Transit," Steven Vance

May 3, 2013 - The Gazette, "RFMA wants changes in street designs and in truck bans in area," Dermot Connolly

May 2, 2013 - Scene Magazine, "Chicago Totally Copying Cleveland with Planned Bus Rapid Transit," Sam Allard

May 1, 2013 - WTTW-TV "Chicago Tonight," "Bus Rapid Transit," Eddie Arruza

April 25, 2013 - Human Transit blog, "Chicago: bus rapid transit moves forward," Jarrett Walker

April 25, 2013 - Chicago Tribune - Letter to the Editor, "Bus rapid transit a win for aging population," Bob Gallo, AARP Illinois State Director

April 22, 2013 - RedEye blog, "Get ready for bus rapid transit," Tracy Swartz

April 22, 2013 – Patch, "Ashland Avenue Chosen for 'Rail-Like' Bus Route," Sarah Flagg



April 19, 2013 – Chicagoist, “City Approves Ashland Avenue Bus Rapid Transit Plan,” Chuck Sudo

April 19, 2013 - Chicago Sun-Times, “City officials, CTA propose Bus Rapid Transit on Ashland,” Rosalind Rossi

April 19, 2013 - eNews Park Forest, “Mayor Emanuel, CTA and CDOT Announce Next Steps in Pursuit of Bus Rapid Transit on Ashland Avenue”

April 19, 2013 - Crain’s Chicago Business, “Bus rapid transit coming to Ashland Avenue,” Greg Hinz

April 19, 2013 - WLS-AM 890, “Ashland chosen as city's first bus rapid transit corridor”

April 19, 2013 - Red Eye, “CTA details proposed Ashland express bus service,” Tracy Swartz

April 19, 2013 - Chicago Tribune, “Chicago picks Ashland Avenue for next bus rapid transit corridor,” Jon Hilkevitch

April 19, 2013 – DNAinfo, “Ashland express bus route gets greenlight from CTA,” Tanveer Ali

April 19, 2013 - WBEZ-FM 91.5, “Bus rapid transit to “maximize potential” of Ashland Avenue,” Chip Mitchell

April 19, 2013 - Chicago Sun-Times Media Wire, “Ashland chosen as city’s first bus rapid transit corridor”