



# TO OUR NEIGHBORS IN THE VIRGINIA AVENUE COMMUNITY:

June 13, 2014

Today's release of the federal government's final environmental impact statement on the reconstruction of the Virginia Avenue Tunnel marked an important step forward on a long road to improve the safety and efficiency of the District's infrastructure. Since 2006, you have been willing to participate in a dialogue about how to responsibly replace this aging tunnel in a way that leaves this great neighborhood even better than it is now. Thank you for that participation and for your patience. We have learned a lot from you and will put those lessons to good use as this project progresses.

The release of the environmental impact statement (available at [www.virginiaavenuetunnel.com](http://www.virginiaavenuetunnel.com)) outlines a clear path forward for construction and allows CSX to talk with you about one specific construction plan, called the preferred alternative. While we still have several steps in this process before construction would start, including the government's Record of Decision and construction permitting, we want to make sure you understand how this project would look if it moves forward. We promise to make sure you have information about construction timing, how it would impact you, and the many things CSX would do to minimize those impacts.

We have a strong track record of working in a way that respects our neighbors, and will continue talking with you and public officials as we fulfill our commitments: to make safety our top priority during and after construction, to minimize the impacts of construction on local residents and businesses, and to collaborate with the community on neighborhood enhancements.

CSX's efforts to minimize the impact of construction would include actions that would be naturally a part of the construction plan; additional actions CSX would take during construction to minimize impacts; and actions CSX would take after construction to help enhance the Virginia Avenue neighborhood.

The construction plan, which was chosen by the federal and D.C. governments, is the direct result of concerns you and your neighbors raised during the environmental review process:

- Offers the shortest construction timeframe (approximately 30 to 42 months);
- Operates trains in an enclosed tunnel in front of all residences;
- Holds all train operations during construction to the Federal Railroad Administration safety standards that apply across CSX's network and the nation;
- Includes a fully-enclosed construction site with full-time site security to enhance the safety of neighbors, children and pets;
- Maintains access for residents and emergency responders to all homes and cross-streets during the entire construction process; and
- Establishes a community office at 861 New Jersey Avenue SE with regular hours to answer questions, address concerns and handle claims.

We know that construction would cause disruptions to your everyday life, and we would actively work to minimize them. The federal process requires significant actions and investments from CSX to limit impacts from construction.

CSX's required efforts would include:

- Limiting construction hours;
- Controlling dust at the construction site to maintain air quality;
- Reducing construction noise and vibration by creating physical barriers, choosing less noisy construction techniques, and doing noise and vibration monitoring;
- Working with District Department of Transportation to monitor and maintain traffic flow around the construction site as necessary to reduce impact;
- Providing compensation to the residents who are impacted the most – the residents directly next to the project – and to Virginia Avenue Tunnel neighborhood organizations, to minimize construction impacts as the residents and organizations choose.

CSX would also make enhancements to complement the other development in the neighborhood. That effort would include reconstructing Virginia Avenue and other affected areas, including Virginia Avenue Park and the Marine Corps Recreation Facility, to a standard higher than before construction. CSX also commits to:

- Improving access to Garfield Park for wheelchair-dependent individuals;
- Building a continuous bike path between 2nd and 9th Streets connecting Garfield Park and Virginia Avenue Park;
- Straightening the alignment of Virginia Avenue SE within the 400 block to be consistent with the original L'Enfant Plan;
- Improving the traffic lane configuration between 5th/6th and 8th Streets to provide safer and calmer traffic conditions; and
- Installing landscaping and improved street lighting, traffic signals and crosswalks.

CSX is committed to completing this project the right way – safely, efficiently, and in a way that addresses your concerns and enhances the neighborhood. As this process continues, we want to keep talking about your ideas for how to best work together.

Our community office at 861 New Jersey Avenue, SE is currently open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Tuesdays and 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. on Thursdays. Those hours will expand as this project progresses, and we'll make sure to update you. Come by to see us, ask questions, and share your thoughts. More information about the project is available at [www.virginiaavenuetunnel.com](http://www.virginiaavenuetunnel.com). Don't hesitate to contact us through that website as well.

We look forward to continuing to talk with you about how to leave this great neighborhood even better than it is now.

Louis Renjel  
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