



JAMES CAPPLEMAN
ALDERMAN, 46TH WARD

July 15, 2016

Dorval Carter
President, Chicago Transit Authority
567 W. Lake Street
Chicago, IL 60661

Dear Mr. Carter,

As Alderman of the 46th Ward, I want to thank the Chicago Transit Authority for its transformative renovation of the Wilson Red Line station and for its long-term investment in the Uptown community.

I am writing to share my support of the **Wilson Underline** project – an inviting transit-oriented public space for all of Uptown’s residents, customers and visitors (more info. at wilsonunderline.com). This space has been planned by and for the Uptown community to enhance the area surrounding the newly renovated Wilson Red Line station. I strongly believe this project will leverage the CTA’s investment by providing a space like none other in the City of Chicago. It would enhance the CTA customer experience and Uptown resident/visitor experience by providing a space that will bring people together, provide food truck dining, seating, dynamic lighting, green space and public art. Like similar efforts in New York City, Portland and Austin, it would create a vibrant commercial and community space that would make a dramatic difference in our neighborhood.

In addition to my support, over 900 residents participated in an online survey conducted from February – March 2016 to determine what amenities community members would like to see under the Wilson ‘L’ tracks. More than 80% of respondents stated that they would like to see accessible public space. Furthermore, when presented with the choice of a fenced-in parking lot, as identified in the current CTA plan for this site, or an accessible a public space 89.5% of respondents said the accessible public space would make them *feel safer*.

I would like to work directly with the CTA, Chicago Police Department, Uptown United, and the Wilson L Public Space Committee to incorporate the Wilson Underline project elements during the current phase of construction. Specifically, I am requesting the CTA to implement two recommendations to move this project forward. First, I would like the CTA to request that the Chicago Police Department review the Wilson Underline project plan as it relates to public safety in and around the new Wilson Red Line station. Second, I ask that the CTA issue a request for a “design change” based on the attached WILSON UNDERLINE plan and create a “net cost change” document based on the additions and subtractions caused by the new plan that the community and I can review.

These two items will assist us to move this exciting project forward. I look forward to the CTA, Chicago Police Department, Uptown United, and Wilson L Public Space Committee working with me to create a unique, safe space at this beautiful new station that will be highlighted as a triumph of cooperation for years to come. Thank you for your attention to this and I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Alderman James Capplemann
46th Ward

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS

BUDGET AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

COMMITTEE, RULES AND ETHICS

HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

HOUSING AND REAL ESTATE

LICENSE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

PEDESTRIAN AND TRAFFIC SAFETY

ZONING, LANDMARKS AND BUILDING STANDARDS