

## Transportation and Infrastructure, Meeting #3

September 1, 2021, 6:00 PM | 2:05 hours

**Documented by: Shabaka Verna**

---

### MEETING MATERIALS

[Agenda <Link to Agenda>](#)

[Presentation <Link to presentation>](#)

### ATTENDEES

- Lilliane Webb
- Alexandra Dumitriu
- Ashley Gratz
- Ben Cosgrove
- Lou Turner
- LaTanya Lane
- Cindy Fish
- Devon Braunstein
- Daniel Comeaux
- Katherine Field McCarter
- John Paige
- Jose Estrada
- Joshua Woods
- Jordan Evangelista
- Jamie Simone
- Yaritza Guillen
- William Davis
- Leah Mooney
- Laurie Dittman
- Melvin Thompson
- Michael Jansen
- Malika Hainer
- Pericles Georgopoulos
- Sandra Blakemore
- Tsehaye Hebert
- William Garcia
- Veronica Cruz
- Elizabeth Schuh

**MEETING GOAL**

*We Will's Transportation and Infrastructure pillar involves the conveyance of people, goods and information through the utilization of private or public vehicles, networks and systems. This meeting made room for all participants to contribute towards connecting to past plans, speaking on equity and resiliency, and identifying guiding questions.*

**WHERE WE ARE**

Step 1

**We Are***Setting the Stage*

Step 2

**We Have and Need***Develop A Policy Toolkit*

Step 3

**We Will***Set Policy Framework***KEY TAKEAWAYS**

- 1** | Questions around access, wellness, and resilience are among the most important guiding principles towards achieving the policy that encompasses the We Will Chicago vision.
- 2** | Reckoning with the history of the Red Line extension and working towards action will be a guiding model and case study.
- 3** | Data and research will help bring answers and clarity to the guiding questions selected by the group.

## CONVERSATION HIGHLIGHTS.

*“How do you get community input and how do you get the community, architects, and urban planners, and other designers to translate their needs into design form?”*

**Yaritza Guillen** | We Will Chicago, Artist-Organizer

*“The 100+ plans in the spreadsheet should be story mapped to present the geographies of the plans, i.e., where plans were conducted and where they were not; the longevity of plans over time in which no action was taken.”*

**Lou Turner** | We Will Chicago, Volunteer

*“‘Transportation is a human right.’ This should be [the] major principle of the transportation pillar.”*

**Lou Turner** | We Will Chicago, Volunteer

*“What non-infrastructure improvements can help reduce commute times like flexible work hours, working from alternate locations/home?”*

**Malika Hainer** | Chicago Department of Aviation, Coordinating Planner

*“How can we turn the end of the line to more of a destination?”*

**Malika Hainer** | Chicago Department of Aviation, Coordinating Planner

*“Why has the city of Chicago neglected connecting the far south side of Chicago to the rest of the city? What is the theory of change the We Will comp plan should have as its guiding concept to assure that that kind of negligence is ended and doesn't occur in the future?”*

**Lou Turner** | We Will Chicago, Volunteer

## NOTES

**Kickoff and Introductions**

- Prompt: “How do you experience transportation and Infrastructure in your neighborhood?”
  - Katherine Field McCarter: I experience transportation and infrastructure as a conceptualized map of one-way streets, varied distances to Metra & CTA, frustration as outside 'walkshed' to a good park, concern about pollutants flowing into Chicago River through new sewer overflow.
  - Malika Hainer: I experience my neighborhood by walking around for which a key infrastructure is accessible sidewalks - for safely pushing my kids in strollers around.
  - Jordan Evangelista: Mostly walking and biking. I feel safe most of the time. I love how many places I can walk to. Parked cars can be scary in some situations while biking, [and] so can high speed traffic areas [they] can also be scary as a pedestrian.

**Overview**

- Artist Engagement report: Yaritza Guillen and Jordan Evangelista, at Honey Pot Performance, are tasked with creating a community based vision for Transportation and Infrastructure. They used four types of engagement: Youth engagement, Community Events, Community Conversations, and Public Exhibition. They are continuing to create a Story Map, an organizing guide and final report to be shared upon completion. They will hold a public exhibit in Garfield Park on October 2nd at The First Church of the Brethren.
- Priority Topics are used to develop guiding questions
  - Multi-modal accessibility
  - Acknowledge diversity of populations and their specific needs
  - Real time technology
  - Maintenance, inspection, and safety
  - Green infrastructure and open space
- Well-received additions and refinements to Priority Topic Areas
  - Environmentally sustainable transportation options
  - Traffic safety above all else in street design
  - Make public transportation accessible for anyone to be able to use
- Breakout Groups:
  - Guiding question #1
    - How do we prioritize removal of lead service lines?
    - How do we re-educate the community about traffic safety and traffic laws?
    - How can we connect parks with public transportation?
    - How do we ensure buses are competitive with cars?
  - Guiding question #2
    - How can we extend transportation infrastructure to be sustainable and environmentally friendly?

- Guiding Question #3
  - How do we address the impact of freights on the road and in communities?
  - How can we build transportation infrastructure to allow access to jobs in a short amount of time
- Guiding Question #4
  - How do we use infrastructure to connect rather than divide?
  - How do we determine who gets centered in decision-making?
  - How do we create resilient infrastructure (water, sewage, electricity)
- To conclude the guiding questions exercise and break them down, participants were asked “what information would help them understand their questions? What data could illustrate the impact of past decisions? Needs? Assets? Strengths?”
  - Answers were collected and are being taken to the research group.
- Malika mentioned looking at ways to make transportation from far corners of the city more efficient. She emphasized travel times and gave her own experience with city employees at her offices in Hegewisch and O’Hare. She envisions a 30 minute travel time at best case
- Melvin mentioned his realization that there was passion behind the topic of extending the redline. He asked how do we ensure that these new stations are the model of what we are trying to achieve when it comes to transportation and infrastructure.
- **Correction:** An earlier version of these notes incorrectly interpreted a comment by Leah about CTA’s Red Line Extension. During the meeting, as part of a group discussion to consolidate guiding questions, Leah proposed the following question in the chat, “How do we galvanize resources across the City to ensure that the once-in-a-generation extension of the Red Line [happens]?” Leah presented this question to frame the Red Line Extension as a priority, building on suggestions by Lou Turner.
- Malika added a guiding question: How can we turn the end of the line into more of a destination?
- Ashley would appreciate being able to hear updates about projects that the attendees are working on.
- Pericles added that this is a people focused plan. If people are saying that the red line is a goal then it should be a focus.
- Jamie said they should highlight the past injustices of the redline project and make it an instructive example.
- Elizabeth reiterated Melvins suggestion to make it a model for what We Will Chicago is looking to achieve

## Agenda

- Recording Consent + Reflective Prompt
- Agenda Review
- T&I Artist-Organizer Report
- Process + Decision-making
- Building On Strengths and Working Styles Activity
- Topic Area Refinement
- Guiding Questions Development
  - Breakout Groups
  - Selecting + Combining Pillar Defined Guiding Questions
- Plans and Data Needs

## RESOURCES

### Metra Transit Improvement Plan

[https://rtams.org/sites/default/files/digital\\_documents/5989\\_NorthCentral\\_Metra\\_TransitImprovementPlan\\_2020.pdf](https://rtams.org/sites/default/files/digital_documents/5989_NorthCentral_Metra_TransitImprovementPlan_2020.pdf)

### Chicago Broadband Use

<http://www.broadbandillinois.org/Research/Internal-Research/Chicago-Broadband-Use.html>

### Improving Access, Increasing Livability: The CTA Red Line South Extension

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_CVeuTv8stM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_CVeuTv8stM)

### Why We Can't Afford to Ignore the Needs of Non-Drivers With Disabilities

<https://usa.streetsblog.org/2021/08/30/why-we-cant-afford-to-ignore-the-needs-of-non-drivers-with-disabilities/>

### Honey Pot Performance (@honeypotchicago) • Instagram photos and videos

<https://www.instagram.com/honeypotchicago/>

## NEXT STEPS

- Combine guiding questions into 10-15 pillar-defined all-encompassing questions
- Participants will then rank these questions in terms of priority.