



June 3, 2019

VIA E-MAIL

Mr. Damien Vanhoecke
[REDACTED]

RE: 19-FOIA-141 Renovation Funding Info

Dear Mr. Vanhoecke:

We are in receipt of your request for information pursuant to the Illinois Freedom of Information Act, 5 ILCS 140/1 *et seq.*

On May 21, 2019, we received your request for information regarding the work that has been done for the Ravenswood Metra Station renovation. Specifically, you wanted to know: what are the conditions to start a project like this one (e.g., for the renovation of the Rogers Park station); what would it take to get the funding; and what is the process (steps and phases needed to achieve) (“**Request**”).

In response to your Request, Metra’s Long Range Planning Department is providing you with the following background information related to funding:

Metra lacks the funding to keep up with maintenance needs on our 11 lines, resulting in a \$6.1 billion backlog of projects, and this amount is expected to grow. Accordingly, the focus of Metra’s recent capital programs have been on addressing the most critical state of good repair needs and legislative mandates like Positive Train Control. In our 2019 Capital Program, only \$13 million out of a total of \$186 million was devoted to Stations and Parking or about 7% of the total program. Most of the programmed station improvements address the most basic functional needs like platform replacement and improved ADA access.

Additionally, most station projects involve specific circumstances or outside funding. In the case of Ravenswood, this was completed since it was a required part of the UP-N Bridge replacement project. In many other station project cases, specific grant funding, state funding from a capital bond program, or local community contributions are part of making the project possible.

For a more thorough explanation of the funding process, please feel free to contact Noe Gallardo in Metra’s Community Affairs Department at 312-322-6487 or ngallardo@metrarr.com.

Sincerely,

Kathleen E. Haton
Freedom of Information Officer
FOIA@metrarr.com