

Red 9-2-20



547 W. Jackson Boulevard, Chicago, IL 60661

312-322-6900

metrarail.com

Office of the CEO/Executive Director

August 28, 2020

Mr. Eugene F. Broyls
Sharpwatch of Olympia Fields
3432 Ithaca Road
Olympia Fields, IL 60461

Mr. Broyls:

Please accept my apologies for my delayed response, and for the conditions you described at the Olympia Fields Station. We are certainly aware that the station needs attention; in fact, we have budgeted funding in our 2023 capital program for a complete reconstruction of the station. This work will include replacement of the elevator, reconstruction of the platforms, a new headhouse and new canopies and shelters.

Metra went through some lean years recently in which our capital budget was severely underfunded. The state had not passed a capital program since 2009, and most of the money we received from that program was spent buying a new fleet of cars for the Metra Electric Line. At the same time, we were required to spend our already inadequate capital dollars to implement Positive Train Control, a new safety system that cost more than \$400 million. These factors limited our ability to perform all the other capital work we wanted to do, particularly station renovations, and we have a resulting backlog of projects to address.

The good news is that the state of Illinois last year approved its first big capital program since 2009, and between that program and our regular capital funding we will have nearly \$2.6 billion to attack the backlog. We plan to renovate several stations along the Metra Electric Line, including Olympia Fields, using an engineering template that is currently being designed. I know you and your organization have been more than patient, but I am afraid I must ask you to be patient a little bit longer. We are ramping up our newly funded capital work as quickly as we can.

In the meantime, over the last few months at the station, we have patched the stairs, painted the handrails, cleaned and drained the stormwater catch basins, refurbished the parking lot, aerated the retention pond, replaced the lighting in the tunnel, performed some minor landscaping and cleaned and power washed the station and tunnel. We will continue to stay on top of the station's maintenance needs until the renovation can take place.

Again, I am sorry I did not get back to you sooner. We agree that the station should be a welcoming gateway to your community, just as it should be a welcoming gateway to our system. That is our goal. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me again if we are falling short of your expectations.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jim Derwinski', is written over a horizontal line.

Jim Derwinski
CEO/Executive Director