



MICHELE SMITH
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November 12, 2014

Forrest Claypool
President
Chicago Transit Authority
567 W. Lake Street
Chicago, IL 60661

Re: Restoration of #11 Lincoln Avenue Bus Service

Dear President Claypool,

I am writing to request that the Chicago Transit Authority reinstate the #11 Lincoln Avenue bus route between Fullerton Avenue and the Western Brown Line.

While I understand the Chicago Transit Authority's (CTA) previous stance that the Brown Line would provide an acceptable substitute method for those utilizing public transportation to this area, this decision has proven to have negative impacts on local businesses and on residents dependent upon public transit.

Local businesses have stated to me that they have seen a decline in revenue that can be attributed to the elimination of the #11 bus route, at a time when many segments of the economy have seen a marked recovery from the economic downturn. In the 43rd Ward, Lincoln Avenue north of Fullerton Avenue is a designated Pedestrian Street. Therefore, the zoning code is designed to discourage the use of automobiles. Indeed, some of Lincoln Avenue is designated for Transit-Oriented development.

Moreover, the #11 bus provides important linkages up Lincoln Avenue for constituents, particularly the 400 senior citizens living at 2640 and 2720 N Sheffield.

The significant numbers of college students, young urban professionals and senior citizens living in the 43rd Ward – in direct proximity to the former bus route – indicate a substantial customer base to provide the necessary revenue to reinstitute the bus route. These individuals provide the largest demographic of the most frequent users of public transportation, both locally and nationwide.

I therefore join my colleague Alderman Ameya Pawar (47th) as well as State Representative Ann Williams (47th) and Cook County Commissioner John Fritchey (12th) to respectfully request that you reconsider the CTA's position and reinstate the #11 bus route to ensure continued access to public transportation in the near future.

Sincerely,

Michele Smith
Alderman, 43rd Ward
Cc: Hon. Ameya Pawar, Alderman, 47th Ward
Hon. Ann Williams, State Representative, 11th District
Hon. John Fritchey, Cook County Board, 12th District