Metra Statement re One Central Station Development

Per Metra Director of Communications on April 30, 2021:
a) Metra provided the below statement to reporters who inquired; it was not posted on the metrarail.com website.
b) Metra did not post or distribute the Metra / Landmark Memorandum of Understanding.

Metra has been working with Landmark Development via an initial memorandum of understanding on a plan that would provide a new yard and maintenance facility to replace Metra's existing Weldon Yard, as well as a new transit center to replace the existing 18th Street Station, as part of One Central's infrastructure and mixed-use development project. We have explored a number of threshold engineering and design considerations and are now exploring operational issues related to Landmark's proposed relocation and alignment of the yard and Metra tracks through the area.

Metra views this proposal as a golden opportunity to fund and build a long-overdue and much-needed improvement to its yard and facilities. The design, construction and financing of this new Metra infrastructure and transit center is proposed to be undertaken by Landmark consistent with a public-private partnership authorized in 2019, which includes no capital commitment from Metra.

While Metra is excited by the potential benefits of this development, we have taken no position on Landmark's specific ridership, tax revenue and economic impact projections. Metra looks forward to further exploring how these improvements can help provide better access to our entire service area with an emphasis on underserved communities, including South Side neighborhoods. We understand there is much remaining work to be done to address questions raised by a variety of parties about this proposal, and we are committed to doing our part by working with all stakeholders.