



What's Happening

IN WARD 17

From Alderman Joe Roddy

July 2015

CORTEX UPDATE



Good news for the neighborhood continues coming from Cortex. On the new development front, demolition on Forest Park of the Brauer Building will give way to the new home of TechShop, one of five innovation centers that will set Cortex apart from anywhere else in the region. This new resident of the Cortex district promises to be an entrepreneur's dream. Access to expensive equipment beyond the budget of any start-up company is now available on a monthly subscription basis. For more information on TechShop, visit their website: <http://invest.techshop.ws/st-louis>. Additional renderings of the building are [here](#).



Concerns regarding demolition within the Cortex district are taken very seriously, and an analysis of alternative use of any historic building is done prior to demolition. In fact, the historic tax-credit program provides a strong incentive to save buildings when possible. For this reason it was particularly difficult to watch the demolition of the small office building on Sarah at Duncan. This happened only after extensive analysis of the size and massing of planned development. The planned massing, along with a mold problem that was discovered in the building, precipitated the regrettable demolition. While plans for this block are progressing and subject to change, it calls for three office buildings with collectively over 500,000 square feet, a parking garage for over 2,000 cars, and an apartment building of over 200 units. The latest massing for the block is [here](#) but is likely to change.



Cortex staff has worked through several complex issues and timing issues that had arisen since the federal government pledged \$10 million to create a new Metro stop between Sarah and Boyle. At the last board meeting, the local match was approved. We are now back on schedule to have the station opened by 2017.



An important goal of public support of Cortex is that all segments of our region participate in its success. Cortex takes this priority seriously and reports on it at their website here <http://cortexstl.com/inclusion-commitment/> and reports on it at its quarterly board meeting. [Here](#) is the latest board report.



*Valuing
Diversity*



*Building an
Innovative Economy*



*Preserving
Our Past*



*Car-Optional
Neighborhood*

