The Northern Illinois Commuter Transportation Initiative

Alternatives Analysis
Welcome

The Northern Illinois Commuter Rail Initiative is now the Northern Illinois Commuter Transportation Initiative
History: the Feasibility Study

• In November of 2004 the feasibility study evaluating the viability of commuter rail in the region was completed.
  
  – The consultant concluded that “the project was feasible and has the potential to become an effective and successful service to the area.”
Furthermore: The Feasibility Study concluded that the potential rail extension:

- has Community Support
- is Cost Effective
- is Operationally Acceptable
- has Minimal Capital Needs
- could potentially Guide Further Development in the Region
The Next Step:

- The Alternatives Analysis is the next step in the FTA’s New Starts Planning And Project Development Process

Source: Federal Transit Administration

Northern Illinois Commuter Transportation Initiative
The Alternatives Analysis

• In Fiscal Year 2006 over $1,000,000 of federal funds were earmarked for this Alternatives Analysis.

• A total of approximately $3,000,000 worth of federal, state, and local funds will be utilized for the completion of this Alternatives Analysis.

• Currently, consultants are evaluating the Statement of Qualification (SOQ) and are preparing responses.
Progression of the Alternatives Analysis:

• During this time the consultant and local agencies will investigate all potentially feasible transportation alternatives for easing commuter congestion and strain within the Interstate 90 corridor.
  – Transportation goals and evaluation measures will be assessed and evaluated.
  – A Locally Preferred Alternative will be selected.
  – A Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be prepared.
To Date:

• The Executive Committee of NICTI and the Rockford Area Transportation Study have hosted a Pre-Submittal conference to answer any consultant questions concerning the RFQ.

• Currently, consultants are evaluating the Statement of Qualifications (SOQ) and are preparing responses.

• These responses are due on April 28th.
Upcoming Important Dates:

• April 28, 2006 – Statements of Qualifications are due.
• May 3 and 4, 2006 – Public open houses hosted by the Rockford Area Transportation Study will be held to discuss the project and answer inquires from the general public.
• July 2006 – Approximate date for selection of a consultant.
Outcome of the Alternatives Analysis:

- The process of completing an Alternatives Analysis and Draft Environmental Impact Statement will satisfy the FTA requirement for completion of the Alternatives Analysis step.

Source: Federal Transit Administration
Call to Action
NICTI needs your support!

• Local Staff Support
  – Collection of Data
  – Land Use Plans
  – Comprehensive Plans
  – Residents may be surveyed
  – Our consultant may be contacting your staffers

• Community Support
  – Resolutions of Support
  – Giving thanks to our Senators and Congressmen
With your help, we can all grow together.

Thank you

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