

Published: February 27, 2007

**Business: Transportation**

## **Residents show interest in Rockford-Chicago link**

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ROCKFORD REGISTER STAR

ROCKFORD — Residents showed their interest in — and strong support for — getting a mass-transit link between here and Chicago during a public meeting tonight.

About 50 people attended the first of two open houses where planners talked about the two rail and two "rapid bus" routes to Elgin that they'll be studying in the next few months. The Northern Illinois Commuter Transportation Initiative has already eliminated five other rail routes, two other bus routes and two light-rail options.

Residents asked questions tonight about funding, potential ridership, safety and access to Chicago/Rockford International and O'Hare International airports.

They generally supported the four options that remain — a rail link through Huntley, Belvidere and downtown Rockford; a rail link through Genoa, Davis Junction and the Rockford airport and two "rapid bus" lines along the Northwest Tollway.

Some residents wondered why a rail option that went through Genoa and then northwest straight to Rockford was eliminated. Planners said it would cost too much because it required a difficult connection between two existing rail lines.

Residents can attend another open house from 5 to 7:30 p.m. Wednesday at the Belvidere Community Building gymnasium, 111 W. First St., Belvidere.

More information is available at [www.nicti.net](http://www.nicti.net).