

The NICTI Executive Committee Unanimously Selects a Commuter Rail Route

A significant amount of work has been occurring behind the scenes. The alternatives that moved forward after the first level screening, [First Screen Alternatives and Revised Study Area Map](#), were carefully evaluated based on criteria such as ridership forecasts, operating plans, cost effectiveness and financial feasibility, analysis of social and environmental impacts and supportive land uses. In this phase of the project, additional engineering analysis was developed to become more certain of the implementation realities of the alternatives.

As the Alternative Analysis progresses through the screening process and the evaluation of criteria applied, options within the wide range of alternatives are eliminated until there is a solution—a Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA).

On April 30, 2008 the NICTI Executive Committee announced the Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA) after the results of the second level screening were reviewed. The transit alternative selected is a commuter rail line that would link downtown Rockford with the communities of Belvidere, Marengo and Huntley to the City of Elgin including to employment centers east of Elgin in Schaumburg, Bensenville and the O'Hare Airport area. The new commuter rail line would travel between Rockford and Elgin on existing freight tracks; at Elgin, the service would connect with the Metra Milwaukee/West District Line. The NICTI Alternative Analysis DRAFT Second Level Screening Executive Summary Report can be viewed in full by clicking on this link: [DRAFT Second Level Screening Executive Summary Report](#) In order for the NICTI project to move forward, the Rockford Metropolitan Agency for Planning (RMAP) approval will be needed. RMAP, the local metropolitan planning organization, will vote on the recommendation in the future.

It is anticipated that the next round of public meetings will be held in late 2009. The details will be posted on the website when they are finalized.