

## Courier News

### Study team seeks input on transportation options

February 21, 2007

#### FROM STAFF REPORTS

The Northern Illinois Commuter Transportation Initiative (NICTI) Executive Committee has identified reasonable modes and alignments for the Rockford region from the November public meeting and other stakeholder and local officials meetings. These ideas will be presented at the upcoming public information meetings.

NICTI also will detail the plan to evaluate the concepts, and explain the federal screening process. The alternatives have undergone an initial evaluation to assess how well they address the six main parts of the purpose and need statement: enhance mobility through and within the corridor; provide efficient and high-quality transit improvements; develop a cost-effective transportation solution; support business, transportation, and residential investments; support effective land use and development patterns; provide a cleaner and safer environment.

The public will have the opportunity to comment on the various improvement concepts, evaluation process and the draft purpose and need.

The open houses will be from 5 to 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 27, at the Burpee Museum of Natural History Auditorium, 737 N. Main St., Rockford, and on Wednesday, Feb. 28, at the Belvidere Community Building Gymnasium, 111 W. First St., Belvidere.

The public is invited and encouraged to attend at any time during the open houses. They will be updated on the study, have an opportunity to review exhibits, and participate in a question-and-answer forum with NICTI representatives and RATS immediately following a live presentation, which will begin at 5:30 p.m. each day.

Both locations are accessible to persons with disabilities. If special accommodations are required, contact Hayes Morrison at (815) 987-5628 or TYY (815) 987-3083.

"We have identified reasonable modes and alignments for our region. This is an important step in the process of obtaining a locally preferred alternative," said NICTI Board Chairman Dave Taylor. "The public's input on these modes and alignments are very important and look forward to hearing from them at our upcoming public meetings."

Visit the committee's interactive Web site at [www.NICTI.net](http://www.NICTI.net) where the public can learn more about the NICTI Study, find updated information and express ideas or comments. **Rockford**