



# Frequently Asked Questions

## What is the purpose of the Jackson County Commuter Corridors Alternatives Analysis?

The Jackson County Commuter Corridors Alternative Analysis (JCCCAA) is evaluating how to enhance transit options in two significant corridors in the metro area. The two corridors being studied are the I-70 corridor and the Rock Island corridor. The study team will identify a variety of alternatives, screen them, and ultimately identify a Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA).

## Who are the partners?

The project is sponsored by the Mid America Regional Council (MARC), Jackson County, Missouri, the City of Kansas City, Missouri and the Kansas City Area Transportation Authority (KCATA). Other participating agencies include the Missouri Department of Transportation, the Federal Transit Administration, and the Federal Railroad Administration.

## What is the purpose of the Jackson County Commuter Corridors Alternatives Analysis?

The Jackson County Commuter Corridors Alternative Analysis (JCCCAA) is evaluating how to enhance transit options in two significant corridors in the metro area. The two corridors being studied are the I-70 corridor and the Rock Island corridor. The study team will identify a variety of alternatives, screen them, and ultimately identify a Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA) which means what the community would prefer to build based upon the analysis prescribed by the federal government.

## What is the schedule?

The project kicked off in June 2011 and is expected to be completed in the late spring of 2012. Information on initial alternatives will be available in September 2011 with refined alternatives in January 2012. Draft recommendations will be completed in April 2012. A more detailed project schedule can be found on the study website.

<http://www.kcsmartmoves.org/pdf/jacksonAA/JCCCAA-Project-Schedule.pdf>



## What corridors are being studied?

The I-70 corridor runs from the heart of Kansas City, Missouri, extending east along the Kansas City Southern Railroad through Independence, Blue Springs, Grain Valley and Oak Grove in Jackson County, and on to Odessa in neighboring Lafayette County. The Rock Island also begins in Kansas City, sharing a segment with the I-70 corridor through eastern edge of Kansas City. It then follows the old Rock Island rail corridor through Raytown, Kansas City, Lee's Summit, and Greenwood in Jackson County and further south to Pleasant Hill in Cass County.

## What alternatives will be examined?

The JCCCAA will examine a range of potential transit alternatives aimed at solving the identified problems. Those alternatives include:

- Rail transit running in its own or shared rights-of-way;
- Express bus services in its own or shared rights-of-way;
- Express bus services on arterial streets or interstates; and
- A no-build option.



JACKSON COUNTY  
**COMMUTER CORRIDORS**  
ALTERNATIVES ANALYSIS

# Frequently Asked Questions

## **Jackson County has been considering commuter rail for a while. Is commuter rail part of the Jackson County Commuter Corridors Alternatives Analysis?**

Yes. Jackson County has been promoting a regional rapid rail system with six lines. However, this Alternatives Analysis will examine the need for and feasibility of a variety of potential transit options and service in just two corridors. One of those options might be some sort of fixed-guideway rail. Additional options involving other modes, such as express buses, will also be examined.

## **How will the Locally Preferred Alternative be paid for?**

In identifying an Locally Preferred Alternative, the study team hopes to secure federal funding through the federal New Starts Program, which is administered by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA). The program is designed for fixed-guideway transit projects for new systems and extensions to existing systems.

Projects financed through FTA's New Starts Program generally receive 50 percent of the capital costs necessary to begin the project. The other half of the cost to construct the improvements would have to be locally funded. A plan to fund the local share of capital and operations of the system would have to be developed.

## **How is this study different than others?**

There is another regional alternatives analysis in process right now. The Downtown Corridor Alternatives Analysis focuses on transit options in a two-mile corridor in Kansas City, Missouri. More information can be found at:

<http://www.kcsmartmoves.org/projects/downtowncorridor.aspx>.

- Service on the commuter corridors is expected to connect with the downtown line.
- Both studies are different than the rail transit proposals considered in the past.
- Both studies are following a process recommended by the Federal Transit Administration and are sponsored by regional partners.

## **What is the difference between light rail and commuter rail?**

Light-rail technology typically uses smaller capacity cars, has a smaller number of cars per train, and is often operated in a more urban environment. Commuter rail provides longer distance trips with higher capacity cars and more of them, focusing on commuter trips.

## **How can I get more project information or become involved?**

A project website can be found at:

<http://www.kcsmartmoves.org/projects/jacksoncounty.aspx>.

There you will be able to find the most up-to-date information. Four public meetings are being planned throughout the course of the project. Comment can be submitted through the on-line survey. You can sign up to receive an electronic newsletter on the website. Information can be found on project partner websites.



JACKSON COUNTY **COMMUTER CORRIDORS** ALTERNATIVES ANALYSIS

