



# Project Information Sheet

JACKSON COUNTY  
COMMUTER CORRIDORS  
ALTERNATIVES ANALYSIS

July 2011

## What is an AA?

According to the Federal Transit Administration, an AA, or Alternatives Analysis, is the local forum for evaluating costs, benefits, and impacts of a range of transportation alternatives. The alternatives are designed to address mobility problems and other locally-identified objectives in a defined transportation corridor. They are also designed to determine which particular investment strategy should be advanced for more focused study and development.

## Project Partners

- Jackson County, Missouri
- Kansas City Area Transportation Authority (KCATA)
- Mid-America Regional Council (MARC)
- City of Kansas City, Missouri



## Commuter Corridors AA Underway

The Jackson County Commuter Corridors Alternative Analysis is designed to identify enhanced transit options for residents and commuters in two significant corridors in the metro area. The study team will review work previously completed, identify a variety of alternatives to address transportation needs, screen those alternatives based on a series of factors, and then fully evaluate a refined set of criteria, ultimately identifying a Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA). In identifying an LPA, 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 or 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 two corridors being studied are the I-70 corridor and the Rock Island corridor. 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 corridor** also begins in Kansas City, sharing a segment with the I-70 corridor through the 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.

# Alternatives Analysis: The Basics

The primary goal of an Alternatives Analysis (AA) is to ensure decisions are made at the local level. Such an analysis answers:

- What are the problems in this corridor?
- What are the causes of those problems?
- What viable options are available to address those issues?
- What are the costs and benefits associated with each of those options?

Typically, several options are considered through an AA. They include a no-build option (none of the alternatives are pursued); a low-cost "best bus" option (new or expanded KCATA or new services); and fixed-guideway transit alternatives (buses or trains running in an exclusive right-of-way).

## Schedule

September 2011  
Initial alternatives

January 2012  
Refined alternatives

April 2012  
Draft recommendations



## Learn More About the Project

Area residents will have an opportunity to be part of the decision about how best to move people throughout the corridors through a comprehensive public involvement process. Not only will representatives of the project sponsors be involved in the process, but the entire spectrum of stakeholders are invited to participate through a number of avenues.

Anyone interested will be able to receive information about the project through Mid-America Regional Council's SmartMoves website ([www.kcsmartmoves.org](http://www.kcsmartmoves.org)); e-newsletters; media advertisements; and fact sheets. They will also be able to provide direct input in determining the locally preferred alternative through a series of public meetings and presentations throughout the region.

For more information regarding how to stay informed or become involved, contact Patty Gentrup at [patty@shockeyconsulting.com](mailto:patty@shockeyconsulting.com).



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