



## NORTHEAST CORRIDOR ALTERNATIVES ANALYSIS & DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT FACT SHEET

Project Management Team: Indianapolis Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)  
Central Indiana Regional Transportation Authority (CIRTA)  
Indianapolis Public Transportation Corporation (IndyGo)

Project Objective: Define and evaluate northeast corridor transit options in accordance with requirements of the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) New Starts funding program and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

Project Location: The study area extends from downtown Indianapolis to downtown Noblesville (See Location Map). The project limits for implementation may differ subject to findings of the study, but they are not expected to extend beyond this study area.

Decision-Making and Approval Process: Based on study results and public input, the Locally Preferred Alternative will be affirmed by the Policy Committee of the Indianapolis Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), representing communities throughout Central Indiana. In accordance with federal funding requirements, the Alternatives Analysis and Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) will also be subject to formal approval by the Federal Transit Administration.

Project Timeline: The ultimate timeline for the project will be determined by a number of factors, including travel demand modeling activities of the MPO, related studies included in IndyConnect, and interim findings of this study. It is anticipated that the Alternatives Analysis Report will be submitted to Federal Transit Administration in March, 2011 and that the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be completed later in the year. The goal is to be part of the Federal Transit Administration Report on New Starts in August 2011.

Key Issues: A number of policy and technical areas will be addressed in the Alternatives Analysis/Draft Environmental Impact Statement (AA/DEIS). Key issues include the following:

- *Alignment*—It is anticipated that prior studies will provide sufficient information to justify the use of the Hoosier Heritage Port Authority rail line (currently used for State Fair Train) traditionally known as the Nickel Plate. Choices remain regarding details such as single/double track, sidings, etc.
- *Technology*— It is anticipated that commuter rail, light rail, bus rapid transit, low cost improvements, and “no action” will be evaluated in this study.

- *Stations*—A determination will be made regarding how many stations will be provided (initial opening and year 2035) and their location will be identified. This will relate closely to technology decisions and public input.
- *Impacts/Mitigation*—A wide range of social, economic and environmental impacts will be defined. Where these impacts are negative, mitigation measures will be identified to the extent feasible.
- *Ridership*—Based on alignment, technology and station locations, refined ridership estimates will be prepared by the Indianapolis Metropolitan Planning Organization using an updated and refined regional travel demand model.
- *Economic Development*—Consistent with local priorities and emerging changes to Federal Transit Administration New Starts guidelines, economic development opportunities will receive increased attention in this study.
- *Implementation*—Cost estimates will be updated and refined, management plans for the system will be defined, and a detailed schedule through construction will be developed.

Opportunities for Public Involvement: There will be many opportunities for public involvement throughout the study process, beginning with a series of IndyConnect meetings in February and March of 2010. Formal “Scoping Meetings” will be held during this time and formal public hearings will be held near the end of the process in 2011. Other public meetings will be held periodically as new information becomes available. In addition, project team members will meet with numerous community groups and agencies as requested and in accordance with regulatory requirements as the work is completed. For more information, visit the project website at [www.IndyConnect.org](http://www.IndyConnect.org).