

STAR Line

(Suburban Transit Access Route)

What is it?

Metra's proposed STAR Line is a 55-mile commuter rail line that will provide connections between the Chicago suburbs, from Joliet to O'Hare Airport. The STAR Line is part of the Federal Government's New Starts program, which is the primary financial resource for supporting locally-planned, implemented, and operated transit "guideway" capital investments. The commuter rail line would run along the EJ&E railroad and connect to a new rail line that would run along the Northwest Corridor next to the tollway.

What are the benefits of the STAR Line?

- Provides close to 1.2 million employees an alternative to driving
- Links to major economic business centers such as Navistar, Lucent Technologies, BP Amoco, Tellabs, Nicor, Motorola, SBC, the Louis Joliet Mall, Woodfield Mall, Fermilab, Pepsi Co., the Prairie Stone Business Campus and major colleges, universities and hospitals
- Provides a safe, reliable transportation option to nearly 1.6 million residents who live in an area of high congestion
- Attracts new businesses eager to take advantage of access to a Metra line
- Initially connects nearly 100 communities, filling a critical void for inter-suburban rail service and provides new service in areas currently without direct access to passenger rail service
- Allows for seamless connection points to four existing Metra lines

What is the timeline?

The following steps are required for New Starts projects:

- Conduct Alternatives Analysis (**WE ARE HERE**)
- Conduct Environmental Assessment/Preliminary Engineering
- Develop Final Engineering/Design and Acquire Land
- Approve a Full Funding Grant Agreement
- Begin Construction
- Begin New Service

It is likely that this process will take upwards of 10 years to complete.

How will it be funded?

The preliminary cost of the STAR line is approximately \$1.1 billion. The STAR line is a New Starts project that is funded under the latest federal transportation bill, Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU). Eighty (80) percent of the costs will be funded by the federal government with the remaining twenty (20) percent funded locally.