

APPENDIX B  
MEETING HANDOUTS

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# Appendix B

## Meeting Handouts

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## ***Welcome to the Oasis Commuter Rail Community Open House!***

The purpose of tonight's meeting is to share with you information about the Oasis Commuter Rail study and its connection to the comprehensive multi-modal transportation program proposed for the Eastern Corridor.

### **We want to hear from you!**

- How do you currently travel through the Eastern Corridor region?
- What do you think about the proposed commuter rail line?
- What questions and comments do you have?

**The information you share with us tonight will be considered as part of the overall Oasis Commuter Rail evaluation process.**

We are at the beginning of what the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) refers to as a "Tier 2" study. The information being presented tonight is a summary of what we know thus far. We will use this information and any additional information you provide to identify and assess alternatives, station locations and possible rail technologies.

### **Meeting Format**

- The information stations set up along the perimeter of the room provide an overview of various key aspects of the project. It is not necessary to visit the stations in order.
- Project team representatives are available at each station to discuss the project with you, answer questions and listen to what you have to say.
- An Open Comment/Question and Answer session will begin at 7:00. This session is an opportunity to address questions and listen to comments in a group setting, but feel free to ask questions and share comments with the project team representatives located around the room at any time.

***THANK YOU for participating in the Oasis Commuter Rail Community Open House. Please be sure to complete the Project Survey and return it to a project team representative before you leave.***

[www.easterncorridor.org](http://www.easterncorridor.org)





# OASIS COMMUTER RAIL FACT SHEET

## PROJECT BACKGROUND

Spanning nearly 165 square miles of both urban and suburban communities, the Eastern Corridor extends east from downtown Cincinnati to the I-275 corridor in Clermont County, and includes the City of Milford to the north, Batavia Township to the east, and Amelia Village to the south.

Mobility and connectivity within the Eastern Corridor is problematic. Transportation routes already exceed their designed capacity, and average daily traffic volumes on the interstates and most main roadways in the area are projected to increase up to 81% over current conditions by 2030<sup>1</sup>. This is expected to lead to increased road congestion, with potential negative effects to efficient movement of goods, services and people.

On June 2, 2006, a Tier 1 Environmental Impact Statement Record of Decision (ROD) for the Eastern Corridor Study – a detailed study of mobility and connectivity challenges between Greater Cincinnati’s Eastern Corridor and downtown Cincinnati – established that a multi-modal transportation program should be implemented to increase capacity, reduce congestion and delay, improve safety, and provide transportation options and connectivity to the region’s key transportation corridors and social and economic centers.

The ROD advanced four multi-modal components for further study: rail transit, expanded bus transit, new highway capacity, and various Transportation Systems Management (TSM) options, including minor local transportation network improvements and new bikeways. The Oasis Commuter Rail Project focuses on the rail transit element of the Eastern Corridor ROD. More information about the Eastern Corridor is available at [www.easterncorridor.org](http://www.easterncorridor.org).

## OASIS COMMUTER RAIL OVERVIEW

Offering a rail-based transportation alternative, the Oasis Commuter Rail is one of four long-term solutions being considered to address mobility challenges within the Eastern Corridor. The proposed rail corridor is approximately 17 miles in length, and extends between the Riverfront Transit Center in downtown Cincinnati and I-275 in the City of Milford. It is divided into four segments and would be served by multiple stations.

<b>RAIL SEGMENTS</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Approx. Length</b>
Oasis Segment 1 (Riverfront Rail Transit)	Riverfront Transit Center to the Boathouse – new alignment following existing tracks for a portion of its length	One mile
Oasis Segment 2	Montgomery Inn Boathouse to U.S. 50 in Fairfax – new rail transit or along existing tracks	Seven miles
Oasis Segment 3	U.S. 50 in Fairfax to Ancor, slightly northeast of Newtown – a shared highway/rail segment on new alignment	Four miles
Oasis Segment 4	Ancor to Milford – new rail transit on or along existing Norfolk Southern tracks	Five miles

<sup>1</sup> Data was provided in the Eastern Corridor Study’s Tier 1 Environmental Impact Statement Record of Decision, June 2, 2006.

## PROPOSED RAIL STATION LOCATIONS

Riverfront Transit Center (Downtown Cincinnati)	Beechmont Avenue (at Wooster Pike)
East Riverfront (Adams Crossing area)	Red Bank Road Area (South of Fairfax)
Pendleton/East End (near Torrence Parkway)	Newtown Road (Near Newtown Road)
Columbia-Tusculum (at Columbia Pkwy and Delta Ave)	Ancor/Broadwell Road Area
Lunken Airport (along Wilmer Avenue)	Milford (near the I-275/US 50 interchange)

## PROJECT PURPOSE

The Oasis Commuter Rail line is currently undergoing Tier 2 National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) analysis and preliminary engineering. The Tier 2 NEPA analysis will evaluate feasible alignment and rail technology alternatives, identify the potential impacts that could result from each, and define any necessary mitigation measures.

Alignment and technology alternatives under consideration will be refined through detailed engineering, environmental analyses and comparative impact evaluation. The end result of this analysis will likely be the identification of a Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA) for the Oasis line.

## PROJECT SCHEDULE

The Oasis Commuter Rail study started in May 2010 and is scheduled for completion in early 2012. During this period, the project team will:

- Perform the technical studies and evaluations needed to refine the purpose and need for rail transit in the Eastern Corridor
- Develop a preliminary operations plan and assessment of rail technology to determine which technology will best suit the region's needs
- Assess the value of the required investment to the community
- Complete Tier 2 NEPA documentation
- Begin station area planning
- Prepare cost estimates

## OASIS COMMUTER RAIL PROJECT PARTNERS

- Hamilton County Transportation Improvement District (HCTID)
- Clermont County Transportation Improvement District (CCTID)
- City of Cincinnati
- Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT)
- Southwest Ohio Regional Transit Authority (SORTA)
- Ohio Kentucky Indiana Regional Council of Governments (OKI)

## FUNDING

The Tier 2 NEPA analysis and preliminary engineering phase of the Oasis Commuter Rail project is funded by ODOT, with indirect support from the Project Partners' financing of various project elements such as modeling and land use studies. Future phases of the project will likely be financed by ODOT, the Federal Highway Administration, the Federal Transit Authority, the Project Partners, or a combination of thereof. Funding for construction and operation has not yet been obtained, but is expected to be generated through combination of federal, state and local resources, both public and private.





# OASIS COMMUTER RAIL FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## ***What is Oasis Commuter Rail?***

The proposed Oasis Commuter Rail line is one component of a comprehensive multi-modal transportation program designed to increase capacity, reduce congestion, improve safety, provide connectivity, and support economic development among key transportation routes and social and economic centers within the Eastern Corridor (which extends between downtown Cincinnati and the I-275 corridor in Clermont County).

The Oasis line offers a rail-based transportation alternative to improve mobility and connectivity within the Eastern Corridor. The passenger rail line would operate in conjunction with expanded bus service, new highway capacity and various Transportation Systems Management (TSM) options, including minor local transportation network improvements and new bikeways.

## ***What communities would the Oasis Commuter Rail Line serve?***

The Oasis Commuter Rail corridor would be approximately 17 miles in length, and extend between the Riverfront Transit Center in downtown Cincinnati and I-275 in the City of Milford. Communities served by the rail line would include:

Anderson Township	Evanston	Oakley
Batavia Township	Hyde Park	Pendleton
California	Linwood	Union Township
City of Milford	Madisonville	Village of Amelia
Columbia Township	Miami Township	Village of Fairfax
Columbia Tusculum	Mt. Adams	Village of Indian Hill
Downtown Cincinnati	Mt. Lookout	Village of Mariemont
East End	Mt. Washington	Village of Newtown
East Walnut Hills	O'Bryonville	Village of Terrace Park

## ***Where does the Oasis Commuter Rail project stand right now?***

At the conclusion of the Eastern Corridor Study several years ago, the Tier 1 Environmental Impact Statement Record of Decision advanced commuter rail transit along the Oasis line for further study. Now, the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) is taking the next step, Tier 2 National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) analysis and preliminary engineering. The focus of the Tier 2 study is to take a deeper look at the commuter rail option to determine its feasibility in terms of function, constructability and affordability. As part of the Tier 2 study, the project team will:

- Perform the technical studies and evaluations needed to refine the purpose and need for rail transit in the Eastern Corridor
- Develop a preliminary operations plan and assessment of rail technology to determine which technology will best suit the region's needs
- Identify the potential impacts of alignments and rail technologies to be considered
- Assess the value of the required investment to the community
- Complete Tier 2 NEPA documentation
- Begin station area planning
- Prepare cost estimates
- Develop financing strategies

The end result of the Tier 2 analysis will likely be the identification of a Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA) for the Oasis line.

***What happens once the current Tier 2 study is complete?***

The current Tier 2 study will conclude with the identification of a Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA) for the commuter rail line or a recommendation not to proceed at this time. The Project Partners will then determine the next steps to be taken. If a preferred alternative is identified, next steps may include advancing the project to detailed design and engineering development and eventually construction. However, funding will need to be secured before any future work can take place.

Also, the proposed Oasis Commuter Rail is just one component of a comprehensive multi-modal transportation program. The other components of the overall program are also currently under evaluation. Those studies must be completed and information about all parts must be considered as a whole before any decisions on how to proceed can be made.

***Who are the Project Partners?***

The Project Partners are:

- Hamilton County Transportation Improvement District (HCTID)
- Clermont County Transportation Improvement District (CCTID)
- City of Cincinnati
- Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT)
- Southwest Ohio Regional Transit Authority (SORTA)
- The Ohio Kentucky Indiana Regional Council of Governments (OKI)

ODOT is managing the Oasis Commuter Rail study on behalf of the Project Partners.

***When would the Oasis Commuter Rail line be operational?***

A lot needs to happen between now and when (or if) the Oasis line is built. Right now, the Project Partners are focused on determining if the proposed commuter rail option is feasible and affordable. At the conclusion of the current Tier 2 study, the project team will present its findings to the Project Partners and the partners will decide how and when to proceed from there.

***How fast would the Oasis line get me from Point A to Point B?***

It is expected that commuters will be able travel between the outer communities and downtown Cincinnati in at least equal, if not less time than it currently takes to drive, however exact travel times cannot be calculated until variables such as the number of stations and type of rail technology to be used are determined.

***How many transit stations would the Oasis Line have? Where will they be?***

The Oasis Commuter Rail line could have up to 10 rail transit stations, although no final decisions have been made yet regarding quantity or specific locations.

***How much is the Oasis line going to cost to build and to operate?***

It will depend on many factors that have yet to be determined, including the final alignment, number of stations to be built, the type of rail technology used, etc. Preparing cost estimates for the proposed rail line is part of the current Tier 2 NEPA Analysis and preliminary engineering process.

***Who is going to pay for construction and, later, operation of the Oasis line?***

Funding for construction and operation has not yet been obtained, but is expected to be generated through combination of federal, state and local resources, both public and private.



### What is the Eastern Corridor?

The Eastern Corridor is a program of multi-modal transportation improvements that integrates land use, economic development and environmental stewardship to address the growing regional travel demand between downtown Cincinnati and its eastern suburbs.

### Why is the Project Needed?

The existing Eastern Corridor transportation network exhibits congestion and delays during peak travel times and high accident rates. A number of underlying issues contribute to these problems:

- Limited mode choice in the greater Cincinnati area with travel dominated by automobiles
- Traffic volumes in excess of capacity on a mostly 2-lane existing roadway network
- Poor connectivity to downtown Cincinnati
- Inefficient movement of goods and services due to delays and travel inefficiencies

### What's already been completed?

A complex project like the Eastern Corridor involves extensive planning and is required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to evaluate consequences to the environment. A planning study led by the Ohio-Kentucky-Indiana Regional Council of Governments (OKI) was completed in 2000 and beginning in 2002, the Eastern Corridor has been following a tiered approach to address NEPA. The Tier 1 study completed in 2006 identified a multi-modal plan for further evaluation, including new highway capacity improvements, new rail transit, and local improvements such as expanded bus transit, bikeways and upgrades to the existing network. Tier 1 also established a context sensitive framework for the Eastern Corridor by incorporating recommendations of a Land Use Vision Plan and Green Infrastructure Master Plan developed by local communities.

#### Eastern Corridor Milestones

Major Investment Study	2000
Land Use Vision Plan	2002
Tier 1 Draft EIS	2004
Tier 1 Final EIS	2005
Green Infrastructure Plan	2005
Tier 1 Record of Decision	2006

### Moving Forward

The current Eastern Corridor study is being administered by the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) in cooperation with FHWA, FTA, and local partners including Hamilton County, Clermont County, the City of Cincinnati, SORTA/Metro and OKI. The current work involves further development of new highway capacity and rail transit components of the Tier 1 plan, and includes four projects:

- **Red Bank Corridor** - capacity and access improvements from I-71 to US 50 in Fairfax
- **Relocated SR 32** - controlled access on new alignment from US 50 to I-275 in Eastgate
- **SR 32 Eastgate** - new capacity improvements on SR 32 in western Clermont County
- **Oasis Rail Transit** - new rail transit from the Cincinnati Riverfront to Milford

These four projects are being developed as separate, but closely coordinated Tier 2 studies consistent with the goals established in Tier 1 for integrating land use, economic development, and environmental stewardship. Tier 2 involves refining alternatives and more detailed environmental and engineering studies to identify a preferred alternative for each of these improvement corridors. This work is being coordinated with other parts of the Eastern Corridor being developed at the local level, including expanded bus transit, bikeways and local roadway network improvements. Through this coordinated program approach, the various components of the Eastern Corridor will be brought on line incrementally over time as part of a long-term public and private investment framework.

For more information about the Eastern Corridor multi-modal program and the four projects that are currently underway, please visit the updated project web site at [www.easterncorridor.org](http://www.easterncorridor.org)





# OASIS COMMUTER RAIL SURVEY AND COMMENT CARD APRIL 2011

1. Before the public announcement of the Community Open House meetings in April, had you heard of the proposed Oasis Commuter Rail line?

YES                      NO

2. Overall, how important is the proposed Oasis Commuter Rail line to you (*circle one*)?

Very Important              Somewhat Important              Not Sure              Not Very Important              Not Important At All

Why?

3. Please briefly describe what you understand the purpose of the Oasis Commuter Rail line to be.

4. Please rate the importance of the following Oasis Commuter Rail benefits to you:

	Very Important	Important	Somewhat Important	Not Important	Not Sure
New/increased public transportation options					
Improved roadway safety					
Decreased roadway congestion					
Decreased highway congestion					
Reduction in greenhouse emissions					
Community revitalization opportunities					
Neighborhood development opportunities					
Other ( <i>please explain in the space below</i> )					

5. What do you think are the top three things that the project team needs to keep in mind as it moves forward with planning for the Oasis Commuter Rail line?

6. In general, would you be in support of a commuter rail line being developed within the Eastern Corridor?  
YES                      NO

Why or why not?

7. Do you currently commute between downtown Cincinnati and the Eastern Corridor or among Eastern Corridor communities?

YES NO

8. If built, how likely would you be to use the proposed Oasis Commuter Rail line to travel to and from work?

Very Likely Somewhat Likely Not Sure Probably Not Likely Definitely Not Likely

*Please explain your answer.*

9. If built, how likely would you be to use the proposed Oasis Commuter Rail line to travel for weekend transportation?

Very Likely Somewhat Likely Not Sure Probably Not Likely Definitely Not Likely

*Please explain your answer.*

10. How would you like to receive future updates about the Oasis Commuter Rail study (please check your top three preferences)?

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> My community newspaper       | <input type="checkbox"/> Local radio news                                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cincinnati Enquirer (print)  | <input type="checkbox"/> Project website                                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cincinnati Enquirer (online) | <input type="checkbox"/> Project email updates                           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cincinnati.com               | <input type="checkbox"/> Community meetings                              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Local blogs                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Informational meetings conducted over the phone |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Local TV news                | <input type="checkbox"/> Other ( <i>please explain below</i> )           |

11. Information about the Oasis Commuter Study will often be distributed via email. If you would like these updates, please provide your email address in the space below.

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey. To conclude, we would appreciate your responses to the items below to help the project team gather a better understanding of the survey results.

- Age:
- age 18-24
  - age 25-34
  - age 35-44
  - age 45-54
  - age 55-64
  - age 65 +

- Gender:
- Male
  - Female

Current community of residence: \_\_\_\_\_

How did you hear about the Oasis Community Meetings?

\_\_\_\_\_ My community newspaper  
\_\_\_\_\_ Cincinnati Enquirer (print)  
\_\_\_\_\_ Cincinnati Enquirer (online)  
\_\_\_\_\_ Cincinnati.com  
\_\_\_\_\_ Local blogs  
\_\_\_\_\_ Local TV news

\_\_\_\_\_ Local radio news  
\_\_\_\_\_ Project website  
\_\_\_\_\_ Project email notification  
\_\_\_\_\_ Recorded telephone announcement  
\_\_\_\_\_ Word of Mouth  
\_\_\_\_\_ Other (*please explain in the space below*)

**ADDITIONAL COMMENTS**

*Your feedback is valuable to the project team. Please use the space below and on the back of this paper to share any additional comments you may have.*

*Please leave your completed survey with an Oasis Project Team representative as you leave, or mail to:  
Oasis Commuter Rail  
3665 Erie Avenue, Suite 5  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45208*