



Oasis Rail Transit Project Fact Sheet

February 2016

ABOUT THE EASTERN CORRIDOR PROGRAM

The Eastern Corridor is a program of integrated, multi-modal transportation investments. The Program enhances our regional transportation network by improving travel and connections between central Cincinnati and the communities extending east through Hamilton County into western Clermont County.

Program elements include improvements to existing roadway networks, new rail transit, expanded bus routes and improvements for bicyclists and pedestrians.

The Eastern Corridor Program is administered by the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) in cooperation with the Eastern Corridor Program Partners.

For more information, visit
www.EasternCorridor.org
or call the Eastern Corridor



OASIS RAIL TRANSIT OVERVIEW

Oasis Rail Transit is a regional rail line designed to better connect people with the places they work, live and play. Oasis would provide a new transportation alternative for the Eastern Corridor region, moving workers, residents and visitors between downtown Cincinnati and the City of Milford, and the communities in between. The proposed rail corridor extends approximately 17 miles and is anticipated to travel along a combination of existing and new tracks. Oasis rail stations would serve as strong catalysts for local community enhancement and economic growth.

The Oasis Transit Rail project has undergone the most extensive study and feasibility review of all rail lines in the envisioned Greater Cincinnati regional rail network. The Oasis line would be a foundation upon which future passenger rail lines can be added, connecting communities throughout the Greater Cincinnati region. The project is now positioned to be considered for local sponsorship and project planners are reviewing the best options for how to proceed.

PUBLIC INPUT HAS HELPED SHAPE OASIS RAIL TRANSIT

Public input has helped guide and inform the development and ongoing refinement of the Oasis Rail Transit project. Early discussions on how to improve transportation in the Eastern Corridor identified rail transit as a desired option. Further input from the public has helped shape initial proposed services and schedules, identify possible station locations, determine the features to be considered for the trains and more.

In late 2013, planners conducted a comprehensive online survey about the Oasis project. People from across the region provided feedback regarding proposed services, schedules, and desired train and station features. Of those that answered questions about anticipated use (703 people), more than 80% indicated they were supportive of the rail line and would ride the train.

Other public input opportunities have included:

- Public meetings
- Community update presentations (to the public, community councils, interest groups, etc.)
- Workshops and focus groups
- Eastern Corridor Development Team meetings
- Community-wide paper, telephone and online surveys
- Feedback tools provided via the Eastern Corridor website, email and telephone hotline



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OASIS RIDERSHIP PROJECTIONS

The following ridership projections are for the year 2020:

	Daily Boarding	Annual Boarding
Peak Weekday Basic Service	3,200	832,000
Off-Peak Weekday Basic Service	2,100	546,000
TOTAL	5,300	1,378,000

The above numbers reflect the 2015 update using the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) travel forecasting model. They do not consider potential new/increased development that could be attracted to the rail service/stations, which could increase ridership nor do they include ridership estimates for evening, weekend or special service.

The estimated peak-period, weekday travel time from Milford to the Riverfront Transit Center by rail is approximately 35 minutes (train travel and dwell time at stations combined).

FUNDING OPTIONS

Public projects such as the Oasis Rail Transit line are typically funded by a combination of federal, state and local resources. Potential funding sources include but are not limited to federal grants, Federal Transit Authority (FTA) and Federal Highway (FHWA) formula and program funds, state grants, and funding from state departments of transportation. From a local and regional standpoint, funding options include value capture opportunities at station areas (special assessment districts, tax increment districts, etc.), reallocation of existing city and county resources, contributions from local jurisdictions, support from local communities, foundations and businesses as well as Public Private Partnerships (P3s).

NEXT STEPS

Overall assessment of the recently completed studies indicate that the Oasis Rail Transit is worthy of advancing for more detailed analysis. The next step would be to enter into the FTA Project Development process. Before doing so however, Oasis planners need to identify a project sponsor and secure the funding required for completing Project Development tasks.

Local and regional planners are currently considering how best to proceed with the project. They are also seeking input from the public. Individuals can submit their comments by sending an email to EasternCorridor@EasternCorridor.org, clicking on the Submit Feedback option on the Eastern Corridor website, www.EasternCorridor.org or by completing an Oasis Rail Transit Comment Form that will be available on the Eastern Corridor website through March 10, 2016.

ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL ANALYSIS

As part of recently completed studies, Oasis planners compared the estimated benefits of the Oasis line against the estimated costs of implementing the line. Results showed that estimated benefits exceed estimated costs and that the project is expected to earn \$.10 to \$.19 for every dollar invested in the rail line. In addition, it is anticipated that initial investments made would be paid back within 31 years.

During the anticipated four-year construction period, Oasis is expected to create more than 2,200 jobs. In the long-term, the line would bring approximately 260 jobs to our region.

SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS

Complete a Comment Form or
Submit Feedback on:
www.EasternCorridor.org

Send an email to:
EasternCorridor@EasternCorridor.org

or send written comments to:
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