



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'Byronville	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.

For more information, please visit www.easterncorridor.org.

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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.

For more information, please visit www.easterncorridor.org.