

CTA CIRCLE LINE ALTERNATIVES ANALYSIS STUDY:

Land Use Component

The CTA's Circle Line is a proposed circumferential transit service that would encircle Chicago's central area, connecting each of the existing radial rapid transit lines to one another. This line would improve CTA's transit coverage in rapidly growing parts of Chicago. It should also reduce travel time for trips that currently require customers to travel into the Loop and then transfer. The Circle Line Alternatives Analysis process began in 2004 and is designed to identify the locally-preferred transit alternative.

In 2006, VleCIDes-Schroeder Associates Inc. (VSA) performed the land use assessment component of this project. Key land use characteristics were tabulated for the area within one-quarter mile radius of each proposed Circle Line station area. Nineteen different land use characteristics were considered in the evaluation including: existing and predicted land use patterns, population and employment densities, prevalence of activity centers such as hospitals or schools, and availability of special tax incentive districts such as Tax Increment Finance zones. Alternatives were then ranked based on how they scored in all land use factors combined. This information was then used to make recommendations regarding which alternatives would continue in the evaluation process.

Circle Line Route Concept



Station Area Land Use Analysis

The Circle Line Alternatives Analysis is examining the passenger flow and connections within the extended central area of the city, and a full range of potential transit solutions, including traditional bus service, bus rapid transit (BRT), light rail, heavy rail, and alternative technologies. The analysis will conclude by selecting the alternative that best fits the project goals of enhancing access and mobility; community and economic development; regional transit system performance; safety and security; and environmental quality.

Project Completed: TBD

Client: CTA