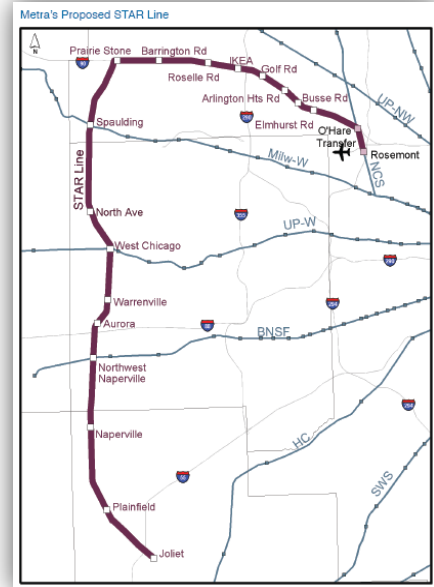


NORTHWEST CORRIDOR ALTERNATIVE ANALYSIS

The Northwest Corridor, centered on the I-90 Northwest Tollway, includes a substantial share of the Chicago region’s activity centers and travel destinations, including O’Hare International Airport, the Schaumburg/Woodfield area and the Elk Grove Industrial Park. The Northwest Corridor Transit Feasibility Study, initiated by the Regional Transportation Authority (RTA), evaluated rail or rapid transit options for connecting those communities to O’Hare Airport and the CTA’s Blue Line to downtown Chicago. Concurrently, the Northwest Municipal Conference sponsored a study to develop transit supportive land use policies and identified potential local financing sources.

Vlecides-Schroeder Associates, Inc. (VSA) teamed with URS Corporation to complete the Alternatives Analysis of the project. The firm’s contributions included developing a baseline alternative consistent with the latest Federal Transit Administration requirements; defining corridor planning standards for use in evaluating alternatives in terms of mobility, local preferences, connectivity and safety; synthesizing service board data; and identifying criteria and performance measures to be further refined in next phase of project.



An example of two proposed alternative options to extend the Blue Line (source: CTA).

Of the three transit options proposed by the CTA, Metra and Pace, the communities in the Northwest Corridor selected Metra’s commuter rail option, the STAR Line. Metra is now responsible for advancing its proposal through the federal planning, funding and environmental processes.

Project Completed: 2003
Client: Regional Transportation Authority (RTA)

Efficiency	Cost Effectiveness - FTA "cost-effectiveness index" - Operating efficiency - Operating cost per passenger	- Riders per vehicle-hour - Riders per vehicle-mile - Farebox Recovery Rate - Capital cost per annual rider - O&M cost per annual rider
Safety	Accident Safety - Accident reduction - Injury accident reduction - Risk management measures	- Relative safety rank of modes - Pedestrian safety perceptions - Rider safety perceptions
Major Categories in RTA PMP and Scope	FTA Evaluation Requirements or Suggested Measures	Other Measures Used in Some US Corridor Planning Studies
Safety (continued)	Transit Security - Will project meet new FTA transit security requirements? - Technology provisions - CCTV bus stop and station lighting, blue light stations, speakers, passenger alarms, design to avoid lurking, etc.	- Perception of personal security at transit stops, stations - Perception of personal security for riders on trains, buses - Level of daily monitoring by security personnel - Crimes per million riders
Other Factors	Transit Supportive Land Use - Existing densities - Development potential - Compatibility of existing land	- Growth management to reduce sprawl - Access to employment