

**UNION PACIFIC NORTHWEST (UP-NW) CORRIDOR ALTERNATIVES ANALYSIS:**  
Accommodating Future Growth

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The Union Pacific Northwest Line (UP-NW) is the longest commuter rail line in Metra’s system, traveling between Ogilvie Transportation Center in downtown Chicago and the rapidly growing communities of McHenry County. Overall, this line now accounts for more than 9 million trips per year.

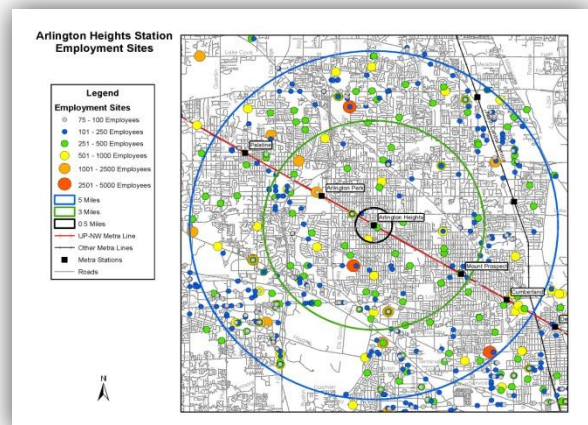
As part of their future service plans, Metra has proposed upgrading and extending the UP-NW service to accommodate future growth and changing travel patterns in the corridor. This project would increase the core capacity of the UP-NW service. It would also permit delivery of more reverse-commute service, allowing Metra to shift riders to improved facilities. Finally, the introduction of new shuttle services is integral to connecting employment sites in the corridor to UP-NW Metra stations.

**UPNW Study Corridor and Proposed New Stations**



Vlecides-Schroeder Associates, Inc. (VSA) provided planning support on this project, focusing on land-use inventory and evaluation measures to meet the existing FTA requirements. VSA also analyzed employment sites within the corridor, recommending locations where shuttle services could be most effectively utilized to provide work-trip connections to Metra and how they should be configured.

**Station Area Employment Site Inventory**



Project Completed: 2009  
Client: Chicago Department of Transportation