Overview

For many years, local stakeholders have expressed interest in extending commuter rail service into Kendall County to serve the growing population and travel demand in the area. While there are significant challenges to such a project, the Kendall Extension Study has been initiated to study the feasibility of extending the BNSF commuter rail line beyond its existing terminus in Aurora, Illinois. This study is funded through previously secured federal earmarked funds that are only eligible for use on this effort. It will examine new outlying yard locations in addition to new commuter rail stations at Montgomery, Oswego, Yorkville, Plano and Sandwich, Illinois. This study will conduct an analysis of the following: station site options, potential environmental impacts, ridership study/impacts and costs/funding considerations. The results of this analysis will provide information to local municipalities and governments so they can make decisions about how to proceed. New local funding will be needed to design, construct, operate and maintain the extension. It is also important to note that extending commuter rail service to Kendall County beyond the 6-county Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) service area would require approval from BNSF, RTA and Metra. It may also require potential changes in state law.

Through this study, an analysis of the following will be conducted:

- Station site options and terminal station location
- Ridership considerations
- Cost/funding considerations
- Potential environmental impacts
- Conceptual infrastructure and station site design
- Level of train service

This study will examine station location options for these five communities and develop conceptual engineering plans to a 30% level of design.

For general questions or comments, please email: KendallExtension@metrarr.com

See Study Area Map on Reverse

Study Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SUMMER 2019</th>
<th>FALL 2019</th>
<th>SPRING 2020</th>
<th>SUMMER 2020</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Study Begins</td>
<td>• Stakeholder Coordination Group Meeting #1</td>
<td>• Stakeholder Coordination Group Meeting #2</td>
<td>• Anticipated Study Completion</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Public Open House and Survey #1</td>
<td>• Public Open House and Survey #2</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• BNSF Access Permits</td>
<td>• Stakeholder Coordination Group Meeting #3</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Field Site Inspections/Survey</td>
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<td>• Topographic Survey</td>
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Stakeholder and Public Outreach

Coordination with stakeholders and the public is critical to the success of the Kendall Extension Study and will provide valuable feedback during the study process.

The stakeholder and public engagement process will include:

- A Stakeholder Coordination Group consisting of local municipalities and elected officials
- Open houses for the general public
- Public online surveys provided in conjunction with each public open house

Project Cost and Funding

A cost-benefit analysis will be conducted to determine the alternatives that are most cost-effective and maximize economic and environmental benefits. The analysis will be based on data collected from the preliminary design work, the environmental review and the anticipated travel demand. It will include financial feasibility analysis, cost estimates and detailed evaluations of station alternatives.

Initial estimates indicate it would cost approximately $400 million to $500 million to construct the extension and stations. An additional $5 million annually would be needed for operations and maintenance. These projections are based on initial estimates and will be refined as part of this study.

Ridership Analysis

A ridership analysis will be conducted as part of this study to estimate the total ridership of the extension and the ridership at each potential station. The analysis will also evaluate potential impacts on existing riders and stations.

Environmental Report

An environmental review will be conducted to evaluate and document potential environmental impacts of the station options, train yard and track infrastructure needs.

For more information, visit: Metrarail.com/kendallextension