

North Central Corridor Commuter Rail

Chicago, Illinois

(November 2002)

Description

Metra, the commuter rail division of the Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) of Northeastern Illinois, is constructing 16.3 miles of a second mainline track and a 2.3-mile stretch of third track along the existing 55-mile North Central Service (NCS) commuter rail line to accommodate increased service and operating speeds. The project includes the construction of five new stations, parking facilities, and the purchase of two new diesel locomotives.

The corridor extends from downtown Chicago to Antioch on the Illinois-Wisconsin border, traversing suburban Cook and Lake counties. The additional trackage, new stations and related improvements will allow Metra to increase its NCS from five roundtrips to a maximum of 11 roundtrips per day. The project will bring new service to the communities of Franklin Park, Schiller Park, Rosemont and Grayslake. The improved NCS line will have 8,400 average weekday boardings in 2020.

Total project cost under the Full Funding Grant Agreement (FFGA) for the NCS Corridor improvements is \$225.52 million. The Section 5309 New Starts funding share is \$135.32 million.

Status

In April 1997, Metra initiated a Major Investment Study (MIS) for the North Central Corridor. The MIS was completed in August 1998. In December 1998, FTA approved Metra's request to initiate the Preliminary Engineering/environmental review process on the NCS project. Metra completed an environmental assessment for the project in April 2000. FTA issued a Finding of No Significant Impact in May 2000. FTA approved the NCS project into Final Design in October 2000. Metra and FTA entered into an FFGA on November 5, 2001 with a revenue operations date scheduled for December 2006. Construction started in 2002 and is currently 14.8 percent complete.

TEA-21 Section 3030(a)(10) authorizes the "North Central Upgrade – Commuter Rail [Metra]" for Final Design and construction. Through FY 2002, Congress has appropriated \$51.26 million in Section 5309 New Starts funds for this project.

| Reported in Year of Expenditure Dollars | | |
|--|---|---|
| <u>Source of Funds</u> | <u>Total Funding (million)</u> | <u>Appropriations to Date</u> |
| Federal: | | |
| Section 5309 New Starts FFGA Commitment | \$135.32 | \$51.26 million appropriated through FY 2002 |
| Section 5309 Fixed Guideway Modernization | \$ 23.80 | |
| State: | | |
| Illinois DOT Bonds | \$ 3.40 | |
| Local: | | |
| Metra | \$ 16.10 | |
| Municipality Contributions | \$ 12.00 | |
| SCIP Bonds | \$ 34.90 | |
| TOTAL | \$225.52 | |

NOTE: Totals may not add due to rounding.

