

Union-Pacific West Line Extension

Chicago, Illinois

(November 2002)

Description

Metra, the commuter rail division of the Regional Transportation Authority of Northeastern Illinois, is constructing 8.5-mile extension to the existing 35-mile Union-Pacific West Line (once known as the Central Kane Corridor). Metra's Union-Pacific West (UPW) Line currently operates 59 weekday trains (29 outbound, 30 inbound) and 34 weekend trains (20 roundtrip trains on Saturdays and 14 roundtrip trains on Sundays) over the Union-Pacific Railroad from the Chicago Passenger Terminal in the central business district (CBD) to Geneva, Illinois (Kane County). The project would extend the line approximately 8.5 miles west from Geneva to Elburn, Illinois. The project also includes multiple improvements to track and signals, construction of two new stations, parking facilities, the purchase of two diesel locomotives, and the construction of a new overnight train storage yard. The additional trackage, new stations, and related improvements will enable Metra to accommodate additional trains, increase operating speeds and bring new commuter rail service to the communities of LaFox and Elburn, Illinois. Metra estimates that 3,900 average weekday boardings will occur on the UPW line in 2020.

Total capital cost for the UPW extension is estimated at \$134.56 million (escalated dollars). The Section 5309 New Starts funding share is \$80.76 million.

Status

In April 1997, Metra initiated a Major Investment Study (MIS) for the Central Kane Corridor (CKC). The purpose of the MIS was to analyze the ability and cost effectiveness of various alternative investment strategies to serve the growing need for travel from the CKC to the Chicago CBD. The MIS was completed in August 1998. Based on the results of the MIS, Metra selected a Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA) that would implement an extension of commuter rail service from Geneva to Elburn, Illinois. The LPA was included in the Chicago Area Transportation Study's (local Metropolitan Planning Organization) 2020 Long-Range Transportation Plan and Transportation Improvement Program in November 1997. In December 1998, FTA approved Metra's request to initiate the Preliminary Engineering and environmental review process on the UPW extension project. Metra completed an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the project in June 2000. FTA issued a Finding of No Significant Impact on the EA in August 2000. FTA approved the UPW project into Final Design in January 2001. Metra and FTA entered into a Full Funding Grant Agreement on November 5, 2001. Construction was scheduled to begin in 2002. Revenue operations are scheduled for December 2006.

TEA-21 Section 3030(a)(13) authorizes the "West Line Extension" for Final Design and construction. Through FY 2002, Congress has appropriated \$32.84 million in Section 5309 New Starts funds to the 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	\$ 80.76	\$32.84 million appropriated through FY 2002
Section 5309 Fixed Guideway Modernization	\$ 12.90	
State:		
Illinois DOT Bonds	\$ 22.50	
Local:		
Metra	\$ 17.30	
Municipality Contributions	\$ 0.60	
SCIP Bonds	\$ 0.50	
TOTAL	\$134.56	

NOTE: Totals may not add due to rounding.

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