

**Federal Transit Administration's  
New Starts Process**



**Circle Line  
Alternatives Analysis Study**

September/October, 2009

# Schedule for Tonight's Meeting

- Structure of the meeting
- Questions and answers process
  - **Submit your comments in writing on comment cards**
  - **Similar comments submitted tonight will be answered in groups to maximize questions answered in time allowed**
  - **All comments will be addressed and posted on CTA's Web site – [www.transitchicago.com](http://www.transitchicago.com)**
  - **An interpreter for the hearing impaired and a translator for the Spanish speaking community are available**
    - Levante la mano si usted requiere traducción en español



# Public Involvement Meeting Schedule

## CTA OPEN HOUSE

### Circle Line Alternatives Analysis Study

The Chicago Transit Authority invites the public to a presentation of a recommended locally preferred alternative for CTA's proposed Circle Line.

Open Houses are scheduled as follows:

**Tuesday, September 29, 2009**

**6:00 – 8:00 p.m.**

(presentation will begin at 6:15 p.m.)

**University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC)  
Molecular Biology Research Building**

900 South Ashland Avenue  
(Marshfield entrance)  
Chicago, Illinois

**Wednesday, September 30, 2009**

**6:00 – 8:00 p.m.**

(presentation will begin at 6:15 p.m.)

**Bucktown / Wicker Park  
Chicago Public Library**

Second Floor Community Room  
1701 North Milwaukee Avenue  
Chicago, Illinois

**Thursday, October 1, 2009**

**6:00 – 8:00 p.m.**

(presentation will begin at 6:15 p.m.)

**Benito Juarez  
Community Academy**

2150 South Laffin Street  
Chicago, Illinois

All venues are accessible to people with disabilities.

[www.transitchicago.com](http://www.transitchicago.com)

Customer information: 1-888-YOUR-CTA (1-888-968-7282); Hearing & Speech Impaired: 1-888-CTA-TTY1 (1-888-282-8891)  
Transit Information: 836-7000 from any local area code



## Tonight's Speakers

- **Darud Akbar – Moderator**
  - **Chicago Transit Authority**
- **Jeffrey Busby – Strategic Planning Manager**
  - **Chicago Transit Authority**
- **Jim Czarnecky – Project Manager**
  - **AECOM**



# Outline of the Presentation

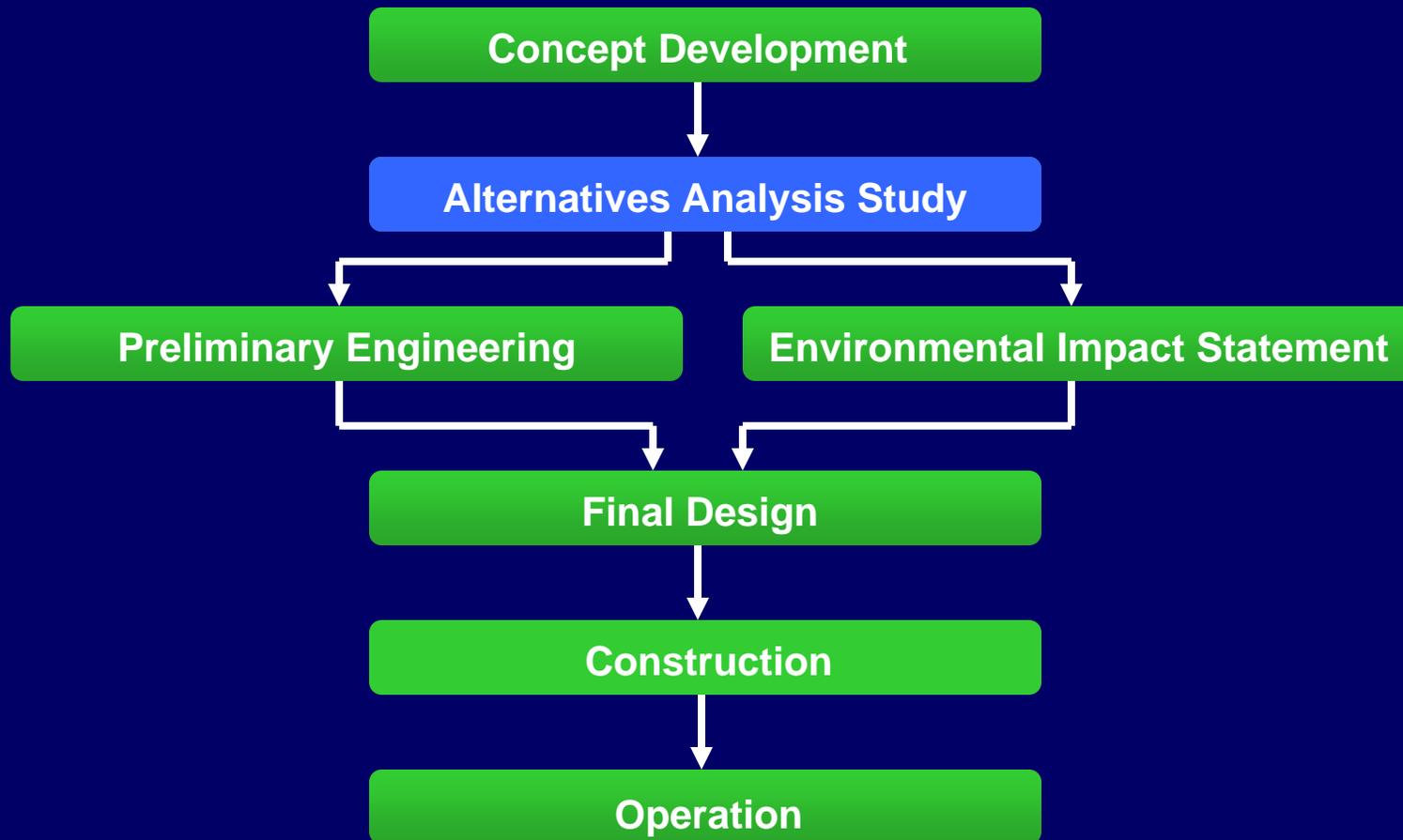
- **Status of the alternatives analysis study**
  - **New Starts overview**
  - **Review evaluation process**
- **Screen 3 preliminary findings**
  - **Expansion of the study area**
  - **Completing the alternatives analysis study**
  - **CTA recommended locally preferred alternative**
- **Public involvement process**



# Status of the Study



# FTA's Required New Starts Process



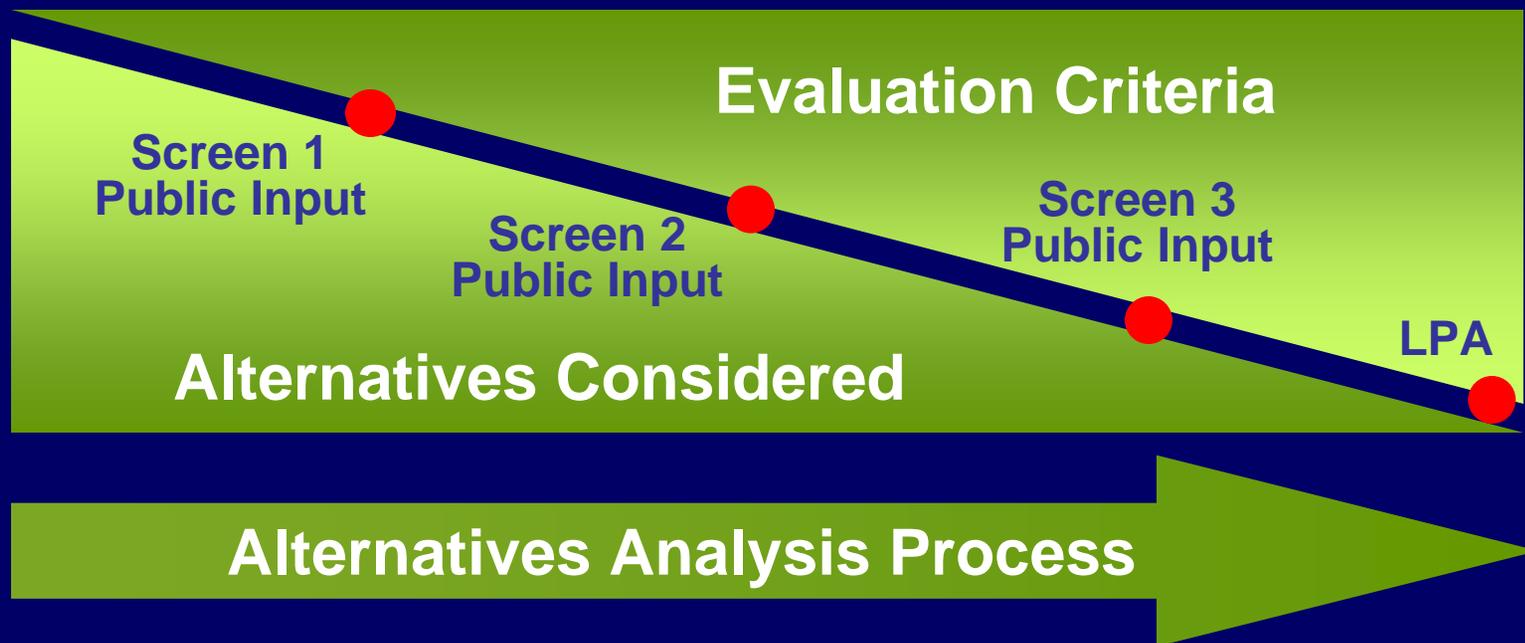
## Alternatives Analysis (AA) Studies

- Requirement for federal funding for transit expansion (FTA New Starts Grant Program)
- Identifies transit opportunities and ensures all practical solutions are considered
- Ensures planning is consistent among all new starts projects
- Opportunity to provide information and receive public input
- Identify recommended locally preferred alternative (LPA)



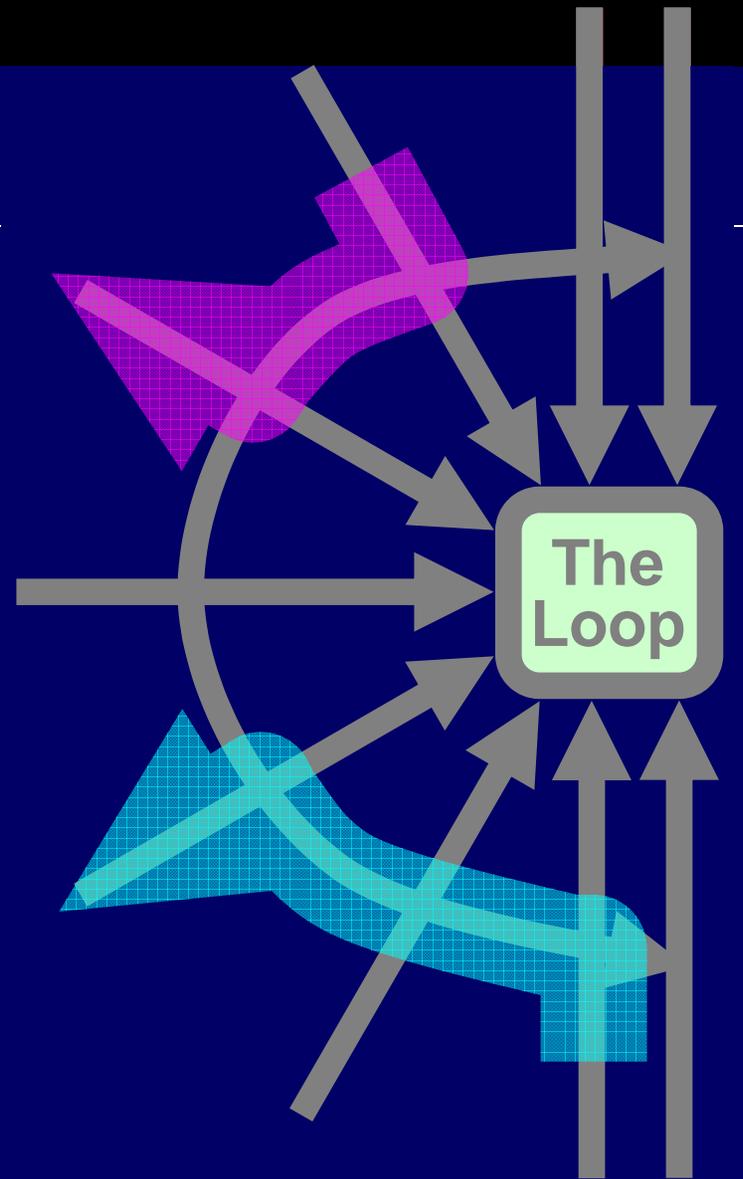
# FTA Evaluation Process

Progressively fewer alternatives are studied with additional evaluation criteria until a recommended locally preferred alternative (LPA) is identified.



## Purpose and Need

- Riders must now travel through Loop to get to most destinations
  - Access to neighborhoods
  - Regional job centers
  - Civic and educational institutions
  - Transit between suburbs and City
- Connect existing CTA and Metra systems



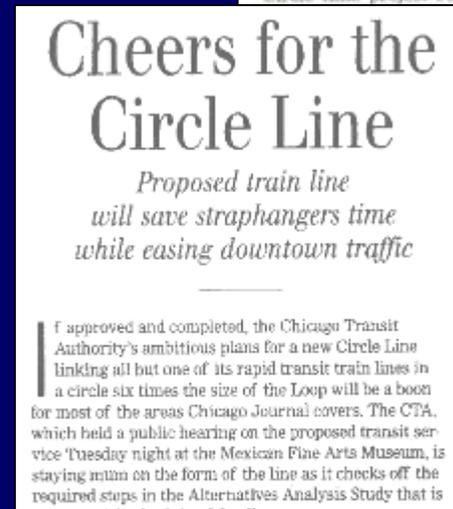
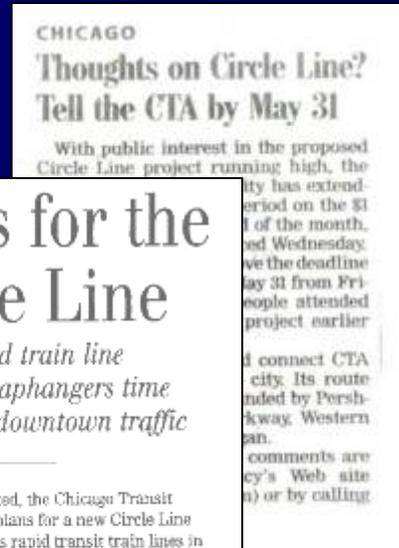
# Evaluation Process - Detail

- **Screen 1 – Reviewed universe of alternatives**
  - **Eliminated alternatives that were not suitable**
  - **Three public involvement meetings – May 2006**
- **Screen 2 – Detailed definition and comparative evaluation**
  - **Specific alignments, transit ridership, and capital costs**
  - **Evaluate and identify the strongest alternatives**
  - **Three public involvement meetings – September 2006**
- **Screen 3 – Final definition and evaluation**
  - **Refine strongest alternatives to best serve the Purpose and Need**
  - **Present recommended LPA and supporting data to the public and solicit feedback**



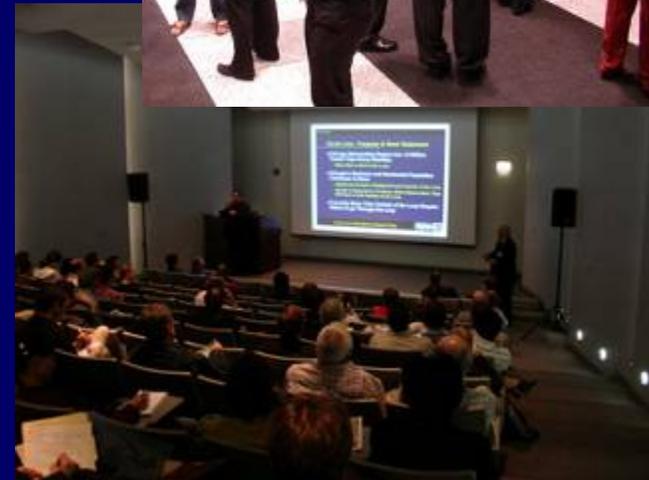
# Screen 1 & 2 Public Involvement Process

- More than 500 people attended public meetings
- Met with stakeholders and elected officials
- Approximately 550 comments submitted and answered
- Significant media coverage



# Screen 1 & 2 Public Involvement Process

- Based upon public input...
  - Numerous comments submitted to examine alternatives outside of original study area
  - Expanded study area
    - Extended north to Lawrence
    - Extended south to 79<sup>th</sup> Street
    - Extended west to Cicero



# Screen 3 Analysis



## Screen 3 Expanded Study Area

- Response to public request
- Seeking cost-effective solution to Purpose and Need
- Cicero Bus Rapid Transit and Heavy Rail Transit
- Modified rail routings



# Expanded Study Area Alternatives

- **Cicero Bus Rapid Transit**
  - **Kimball/Lawrence to Jefferson Park**
  - **Jefferson Park to Midway**
  - **Midway to 87<sup>th</sup>/Dan Ryan**
- **Cicero Heavy Rail Transit**
  - **Jefferson Park to Midway to 87<sup>th</sup> using existing freight corridor**
  - **Kimball to Jefferson Park (Brown Line extension elevated or underground along Lawrence)**



# New Routes

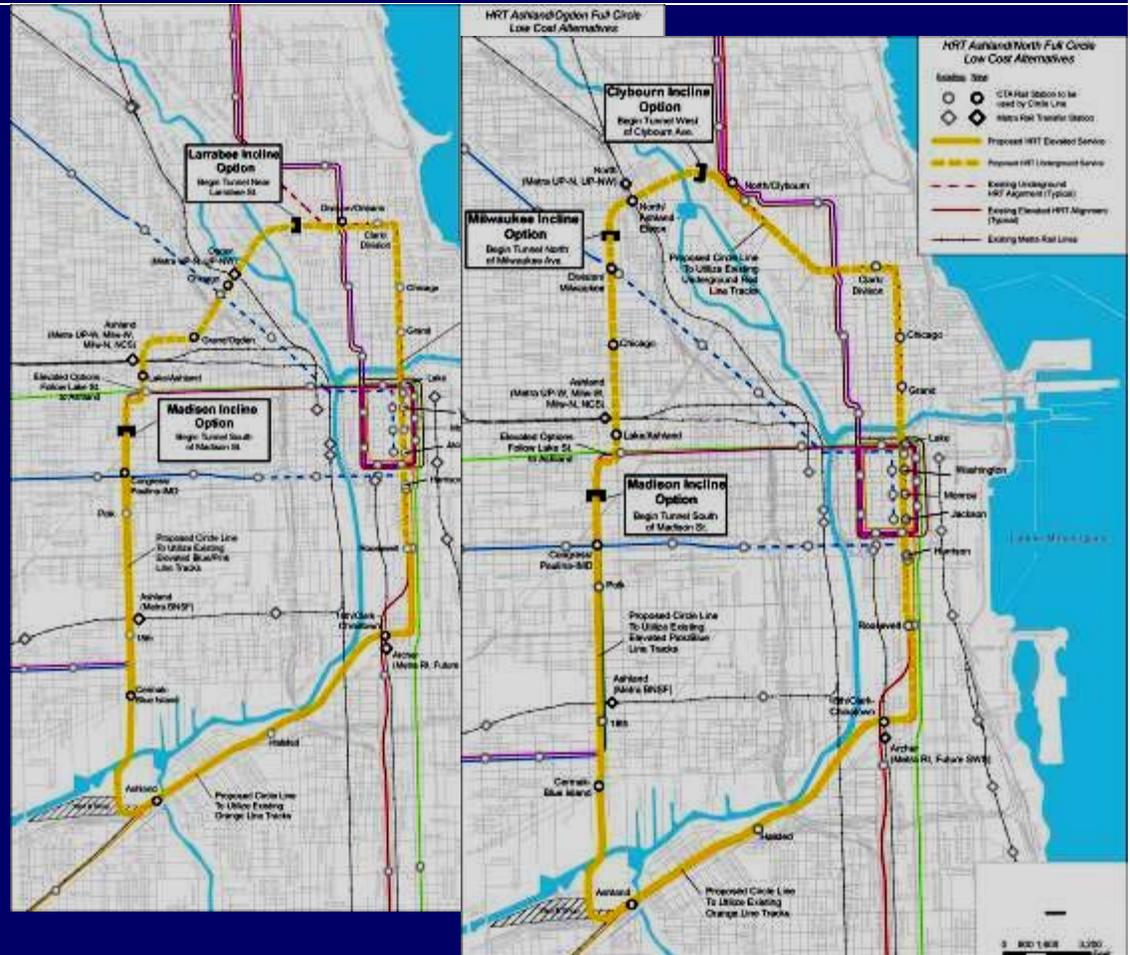
- Northside to Midway and to Ashland/Archer
  - Serves new travel markets
  - Does not use Red Line Subway in the Central Area
  - Does not serve downtown

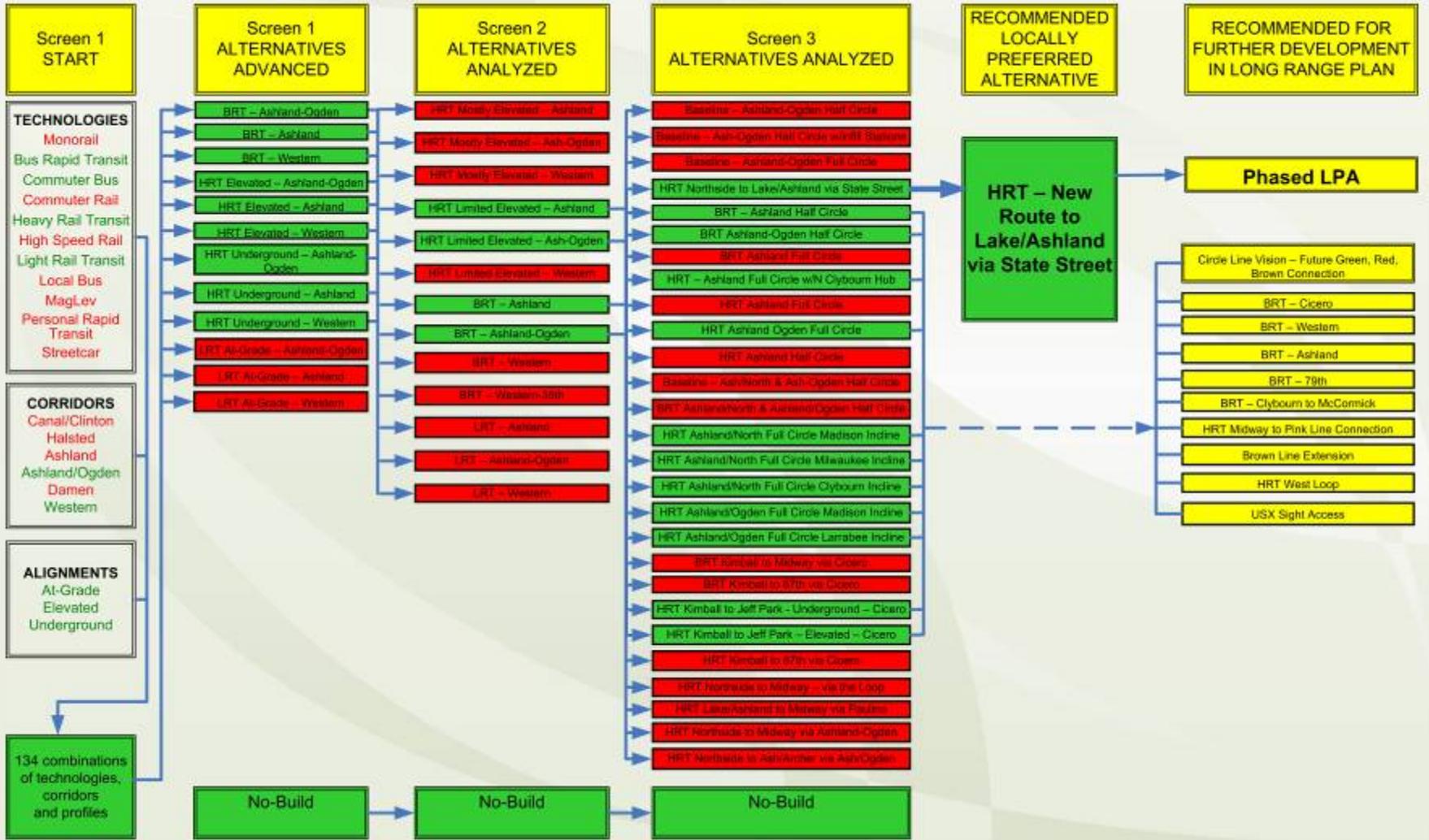


# Refined Alternatives

## • Lower Cost Full Circle Alternatives

- Profile options with various elevated segments
- Serves downtown with full circumferential service





# Evaluations of Alternatives

Criteria	New Cicero Alternatives		New Route Alternatives (Utilizing Ashland/Ogden)		Refined Screen 2 Alternatives (Lower Cost Alternatives)		
	Bus Rapid Transit	Heavy Rail Transit	Rail Transit to Midway	Heavy Rail Transit to Ashland/Archer	Bus Rapid Transit	Heavy Rail Transit Ashland/North Ave	Heavy Rail Transit Ashland/Ogden
Order of Magnitude Capital Cost (2009 \$million)	\$230	\$4,900	\$1,600	\$1,600	\$320	\$3,200 - \$4,200	\$2,300 - \$3,000
Annual Operating Cost (2009 \$million)	\$15	\$50	\$37	\$28	\$10	\$36	\$33
Annual Project Ridership (2030-million)	5.5	9.1	26.3	22.4	10.5	24.4	25.1
Annual Travel Time Savings (million hours)	2.7	3.6	5.5	4.3	0.6	2.6	2.5
Annual Project Cost Per Hour of Travel Time Savings (compared to no-build)	\$11	\$112	\$27	\$33	\$54	\$103 - \$129	\$79 - \$100
CTA Recommendations	<b>Not Recommended</b>					<b>Recommended for Long Term Vision and premise of LPA</b>	
	Potential component of BRT network	High cost relative to estimated ridership	Does not allow for future connections identified in Purpose and Need		Potential component of BRT network	Provides for future connections identified in Purpose and Need	



# Long Term Vision

- Provides future connections identified in Purpose and Need
- Many alignment alternatives identified for connection between Green/Pink Lines and Red/Brown/Purple Lines
- Selection requires additional environmental analysis and consideration of capacity constraints



## Recommended Locally Preferred Alternative

- Connection between Orange and Pink Lines
- New connection stations
- Provides improvements consistent with Long Term Vision
- Can be implemented incrementally



## Benefits of the Agency Recommended LPA

- New rail connection between Pink and Orange Lines
- Improved connectivity for southwest neighborhoods and activity centers
  - Illinois Medical District
  - Midway Airport
  - Chinatown
- Four new stations
- Decreased congestion on elevated Loop structure
- Essential component of the Long Range Vision



# Recommended Locally Preferred Alternative

<b>Capital Cost (Inflated dollars)*</b>	<b>\$1.1 B</b>
<b>Capital Cost (\$2009)</b>	<b>\$1.0 B</b>
<b>Operating Cost (\$2009)</b>	<b>\$22 M</b>
<b>Project Ridership (Year 2030)**</b>	<b>10 M</b>

\* Inflated to estimated year of expenditure

\*\* To be revised to reflect refined service plan



## Next Steps

- Obtain public feedback on results
- Board approval of recommended locally preferred alternative
- Update long range plan
- Develop implementation plan



# Your Feedback

- **Interpreter and translators are available**
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- **Questions and answers process**
  - **Submit your comments in writing on comment cards**
  - **Similar comments submitted tonight will be answered in groups to maximize questions answered in time allowed**
  - **All comments will be addressed and posted on CTA's Web Site**
- **Public Involvement**
  - **Add to Circle Line contact list for final updates**
  - **Answer and distribute answers to all questions and comments**
  - **Materials posted on CTA Web site - [www.transitchicago.com](http://www.transitchicago.com)**



## Questions and Comments

- CTA representatives are available to answer additional questions
- Written comments and questions for Screen 3 will be accepted through October 30, 2009:

**Mr. Darud Akbar**  
**Chicago Transit Authority**  
**Government and Community Relations**  
**P.O. Box 7567**  
**Chicago, IL 60680-7567**  
**[dakbar@transitchicago.com](mailto:dakbar@transitchicago.com)**



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