

## ***HARD TECH CORRIDOR COMMUTER RAIL STUDY PROPOSAL***

Efficient connections between West Lafayette, Frankfort, LEAP-Lebanon, and Purdue Indy

There's a growing need for enhanced connectivity between Purdue's West Lafayette and Indianapolis campuses, along with the challenge of providing an efficient mass transit alternative to alleviate single-passenger vehicle traffic. The goal is to ensure on-time arrival for students and employees throughout this developing tech, manufacturing, education, and research corridor in central Indiana.

A rail option exists between West Lafayette and downtown Indianapolis that, with proper planning and development, meet the on-time needs of all parties. This transit alternative would, with infrastructure enhancements, provide frequent reliable commuter service throughout the Hard Tech Corridor at speeds up to 79 miles per hour.

The proposed Hard Tech Corridor route involves cooperation with three rail companies:

1. The Kankakee, Beaverville & Southern Railroad Company (2.6 mi) between Purdue University Airport and downtown Lafayette with...
2. Norfolk Southern Corporation (25 mi) between downtown Lafayette (by SIA & Frankfort industry) and Frankfort with...
3. CSX Transportation (47.9 mi) between Frankfort (past LEAP Lebanon & Purdue Indy) and downtown Indianapolis

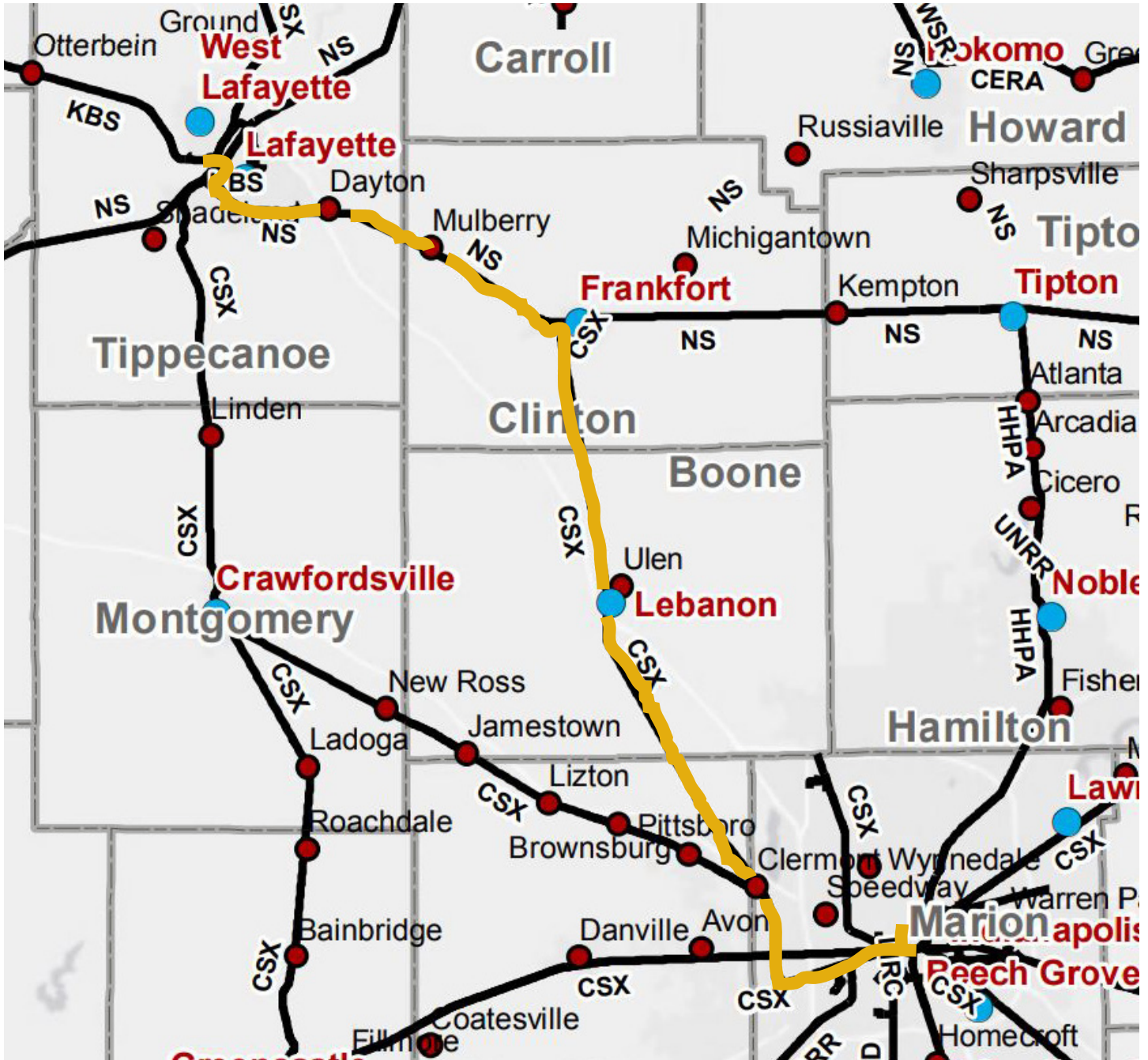
Currently, these rail lines are freight only. Existing rail traffic density shows the potential of introducing commuter usage, provided there are infrastructure upgrades to enhance on-time performance and meet freight transportation needs.

In addition to efficiently transporting Purdue students, faculty, and staff, there is a potential to also provide transportation between research, technology, and manufacturing facilities directly adjacent to the rail line.

There are two options regarding the corridor's passenger equipment: One, the use of diesel electric locomotion moving sets of commuter passenger cars in a push/pull method between the two terminals. Two, is to utilize hydrogen fuel cell-powered commuter equipment. These are proven systems in operation in Europe, and currently being introduced in the United States. Their clean energy footprint and reliability are appealing.

The next step is funding a Hard Tech Corridor rail study. An approved engineering consultant can produce INDOT-approved studies that could open the door for Federal Transit Administration funding, in addition to state and regional resources. The recommended corridor study cost estimate is \$250,000.

# HARD TECH CORRIDOR RAIL



## Potential Stops/Stations

- Purdue Airport
- Subaru Indiana Automotive
- West Frankfort
- LEAP North Lebanon
- Indianapolis International Airport
- Purdue Indy
- Indianapolis Union Station

Total Route Distance: 75.5 miles  
 Maximum Speed: 79 mph

