Research Need for Public & Intermodal Transportation Technical Advisory Group

Effective/Updated: August 14, 2015

ISSUE: Last/First Mile Bus Connections

SUMMARY OF PROBLEM: Improved and more effective means to provide last-mile and first-mile bus service connecting with mainline transit services are needed. Numerous privately operated shuttle buses are operated in the RTA region to connect with mainline transit services, primarily Metra and CTA rail. Those are operated in downtown Chicago and suburban areas to connect employees to their work location as well as for residential access to mainline transit. Better understanding of these privately run services and how employers make decisions about when to contract them will inform transit operators about this market opportunity.

EXPECTED IMPLEMENTABLE OUTCOME: Research would provide a survey study of private shuttle operations to understand the perceived and actual benefits and costs of operations, as well as the decision drivers for sponsors of those services. Analysis would be conducted to provide guidance as to the economic case, service needs, and ridership potential to determine the circumstances in which service can best be provided by the public sector, the private sector, or in a public–private partnership.

To submit a research idea for consideration at the spring 2016 Executive Committee meeting, prepare and submit a Proposed Research Idea form to IDOT (DOT.BMPR.RESEARCH@illinois.gov) no later than October 1, 2015.