

Ann Arbor Area Transportation Authority North-South Commuter Rail Project



The Ann Arbor Area Transportation Authority (AAATA), the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT), Federal Transit Administration (FTA), and Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), are seeking to evaluate the feasibility of operating the North-South Commuter Rail Line between Ann Arbor and Howell, MI. Quandel Consultants is serving as a sub-consultant on the project team to prepare a feasibility study and conceptual planning documents.

Major tasks include the identification and feasibility analysis of alternatives, track inspection, conceptual design, development of operating plans, ridership estimating, station location analyses, service planning, capital and operating cost estimating, public involvement and governance, and funding concept development.

Services Provided:

- Alternatives Analysis
- Development of Operating Plans based on Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) Requirements
- Service Planning
- Station Location Analysis

One of Quandel's key roles is to define service alternatives which includes developing schedules and operating plans, identifying infrastructure improvements and associated capital costs, and creating track schematics that depict existing and proposed track configurations. Quandel is defining a full service option and a Minimum Operable Configuration which provides service in a 10 mile portion of the overall route between the Barton Station in Ann Arbor and the Whitmore Lake Station.

Quandel will assess decisions made under each project task for consistency with FRA, FTA, and FHWA guidelines and will document the applicable guidelines throughout the planning process. Specifically, Quandel will ensure compliance with FRA safety related elements, that required plans be prepared for FRA approval, and that the project follows FTA New Starts guidance.