

PRESS RELEASE

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River Valley Metro Selected as Pilot Location for High Speed Bus Test

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President Obama has recently announced a new high speed bus plan to replace the high speed train plan and River Valley Metro Mass Transit District's University Park route has been chosen as one of the ten test corridors.

The high speed bus routes will use existing roadways, instead of building expensive railways for high speed rail. The buses will either use the shoulders of the existing infrastructure or when shoulders are unavailable the buses will share lanes with other vehicles. Lanes will be clearly marked to assist in traffic control.

Other cost savings comes from the equipment requirements. Existing vehicles can be retrofitted for as little as \$40 a vehicle. A significant savings over purchasing new rail engines and passenger cars. Buses will be outfitted with seat restraints much like those used on roller coasters. With buses reaching a maximum speed of 165 mph, passenger safety is a top priority.

River Valley Metro Board of Directors member, Norman Grimsley from Aroma Park, stated, "This test is great for Kankakee County. This high speed bus route will cut travel times to University Park from 45 minutes to 7-1/2 minutes. This will make Kankakee County more attractive for those folks that want to relocate to a more family friendly environment, but still need to commute to Chicago."

This high speed bus route will also positively affect the economy in Kankakee County. The new corridor is estimated to bring in over 5,000 long-term, high paying jobs to the area. Grimsley continues, "Most of these employment opportunities will be in the health care field and first responders. But they also estimate a larger need for automobile repair technicians, tow truck drivers and automobile sales. All of the above will be great for Kankakee County."

For more information on this exciting opportunity for Kankakee County visit <http://www.theonion.com/video/obama-replaces-costly-highspeed-rail-plan-with-high-speed-bus-test-18473/> to learn more.

