



**NORTHERN INDIANA COMMUTER TRANSPORTATION DISTRICT
BOARD MEETING**

May 20, 2024

Webinar ID: 86573363173

Passcode: 826975

Public Session – 10:30 a.m. (CST)

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Michael Smith
Jon Costas

Carl Baxmeyer
Eddie Melton

Jim Arnold

STAFF PARTICIPANTS

Michael Noland
Chuck Lukmann, Esq.
Amber Kettering
Connie Grashel

Nicole Barker
Jessie Watts, Jr.
Joseph Cieniawski
Christine Dearing

Tony Siegmund
Anthony Hall
Kelly Wenger

OTHERS PRESENT

Joe Crnkovich
Tim Zorn

Steven Lyons

Hodge Patel

CALL TO ORDER

Michael Smith, NICTD Board Chairman, called the meeting to order. Mr. Smith requested a roll call. Attorney Chuck Lukmann, NICTD's General Counsel, conducted the roll call. Michael Smith, Jim Arnold, Carl Baxmeyer, Jon Costas, and Eddie Melton were present.

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Mr. Smith requested a motion to approve the Board Meeting Minutes of March 25, 2024. Mr. Baxmeyer made a motion to approve the board meeting minutes; Mr. Melton seconded, and on roll call, the motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

PURCHASING (Procurement Recommendation Packet Attached)

Tony Siegmund, NICTD's Purchasing Manager, presented six recommendations to the Board. The purchasing items are listed in the recommendations that follow and the Board's vote was requested at the end of each recommendation.

The first item was for Training Simulator Upgrades. The existing simulator was purchased from Corys. With the completion of Double Track Project, and West Lake coming into service in 2025 the simulators need upgrades to include the changes to the railway. The train simulators are currently running an older version of Wabtec on-board software that does not reflect the current industry standard. This procurement will also have a one-year software maintenance agreement. Corys Inc. is the only vendor that can upgrade and maintain the software that is compatible with Corys system.

The District has reviewed the proposed pricing and has determined this pricing to be fair and reasonable based on previous upgrades.

The District recommends that Corys Inc. of Jacksonville, FL, be awarded the contract for training simulator upgrades in the amount of Two Hundred Forty-Eight Thousand Seven Hundred and Twenty Dollars and ⁰⁰/₁₀₀ (\$248,720.00).

The District is requesting that the Board grant the President the authority to issue Notice to Proceed for training simulator upgrades at his discretion, pending RDA and IFA approval.

Mr. Costas made a motion to grant authority to the NICTD President to issue a Notice to Proceed for training simulator upgrades at his discretion, seconded by Mr. Melton and on roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.

The second item was from the PTC Department, which was a request for bids for I-ETMS On Board Maintenance Service. The District approved the purchase of a support contract for the NICTD 72 EMU's and 2 locomotives for the PTC On Board equipment on each of our cars on November 22, 2022, with mutually agreed upon annual escalation clauses. The On-Board support services agreement gives NICTD the latest On-Board Software updates necessary for interoperability and PTC train operations.

Currently, Wabtec Railway Electronics, Inc. is the only company capable of supplying I-ETMS On-Board software and hardware maintenance. This is a proprietary product from Wabtec Railway Electronics, Inc. and NICTD cannot purchase spares or get our equipment repaired by other vendors. The pricing received was determined to be fair and reasonable and was compared to previous purchases.

The Staff recommends that Wabtec Railway Electronics, Inc. of Jacksonville, Florida, again be awarded the Contract for On Board Maintenance Service of Seven Hundred Sixty Thousand Seven Hundred and Sixty Dollars and ⁰⁰/₁₀₀ (\$760,760.00) plus annual escalation as described in the service agreement.

The Staff is requesting that the Board grant the President the authority to issue the Notice to Proceed for an additional year of On-Board Maintenance Service at his discretion.

Mr. Baxmeyer made a motion to grant authority to the NICTD President to issue a Notice to Proceed for I-ETMS On Board Maintenance Service, at his discretion, seconded by Mr. Costas and on roll call vote the motion passed unanimously

The third item was from the PTC Department, for 2024 PTC Support. Bids were solicited and a public bid opening was held virtually and in-person at the Dune Park Office on Thursday, March 14, 2024.

The District is looking for support for the new NICTD Tracsis RailComm CAD (Computer Aided Dispatch) BOS (Back Office System) systems. NICTD implemented Princeton's KES, COSMA, MCARRIAGE and ITCM products as part of our current PTC system. When NICTD transitions to the new Tracsis RailComm BOS CAD systems, we will need Princeton support for these systems.

The District has obtained quotes from Princeton Consultants in the amount of \$403,000.00. This is a sole source procurement because these services can only be provided by Princeton Consultants. The District did prepare Independent Cost Estimates of \$430,000.00 for these services and the pricing received from Princeton Consultants was within the budgetary estimate and determined to be fair and reasonable.

The District is requesting the Board grant the President the authority to approve these service agreements in the amount of \$403,000 for work performed in 2024.

The Staff recommends that Princeton Consultants of Princeton, New Jersey be awarded the Contract for 2024 PTC Support in the amount of Four Hundred Three Thousand Dollars and ⁰⁰/₁₀₀ (\$403,000.00).

The Staff is requesting that the Board grant the President the authority to issue the Notice to Proceed for 2024 PTC Support at his discretion.

Mr. Baxmeyer made a motion to grant authority to the NICTD President to issue a Notice to Proceed for 2024 PTC Support, at his discretion, seconded by Mr. Melton and on roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.

The fourth item was for the Mechanical Department, Draft Gears. The Mechanical Department requests the procurement of draft gears produced by Wabtec Passenger Transit Division. The draft gear is a required component for NICTD's railcars.

The District has reviewed the proposed pricing by Wabtec Passenger Transit Division and has determined this pricing to be fair and reasonable based on previous orders of draft gears.

The Staff is requesting the Board grant the President the authority to enter into a contract for an amount of Three Hundred Fifty-Five Thousand, Four Hundred Eight Dollars and ⁰⁰/₁₀₀ (\$355,408.00) with Wabtec Passenger Transit Division of Duncan, South Carolina for draft gears.

Mr. Costas made a motion to grant authority to the NICTD President to issue a Notice to Proceed for Mechanical Department, Draft Gears, seconded by Mr. Baxmeyer, and on roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously.

The fifth item was for the West Lake, Camera System, Amendment 1. The District executed contract 99774 for Camera Systems with New Age Telecom, Inc. on December 15, 2023, for a not to exceed \$1,221,169.94. Amendment 1 authorizes \$484,167.85 to be added to the contract price. This will ensure the camera equipment on the Monon Corridor is the same as the camera equipment on the Lakeshore Corridor. A credit from the Design Builder (F. H. Paschen/Ragnar Benson Joint Venture) will be received for the equipment and a portion of the work being completed by New Age Telecom. The updated total contract amount would be \$1,705,337.79.

The District is requesting the Board grant the President the authority to approve amendment 1 to contract 99774 in the amount of Four Hundred Eighty-Four Thousand, One Hundred Sixty-Seven Dollars and ⁸⁵/₁₀₀ (\$484,167.85), pending RDA and IFA approval.

Mr. Arnold made a motion to grant authority to the NICTD President to issue a Notice to Proceed for West Lake, Camera Systems, Amendment 1, seconded by Mr. Baxmeyer, and on roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously.

The sixth item was for the West Lake, Project Administration, Amendment 2. The District executed contract 89135 for West Lake Project Administration Services with Gannett Fleming Transit & Rail Systems on December 12, 2018, for a not to exceed \$797,563.00.

To keep the project moving forward, one amendment has been approved by the District with no cost added to the contract. Amendment 2 authorizes \$266,589.00 to be added to the contract price. This additional amount is requested to cover the additional level of effort required. The updated total contract amount would be \$1,064,152.00.

The District is requesting the Board grant the President the authority to approve amendment 2 to contract 89135 in the amount of Two Hundred Sixty-Six Thousand, Five Hundred Eighty-Nine Dollars and ⁰⁰/₁₀₀ (\$266,589.00), pending RDA and IFA approval.

Mr. Costas made a motion to grant authority to the NICTD President to issue a Notice to Proceed for West Lake, Administration, Amendment 2., seconded by Mr. Arnold, and on roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Double Track NWI

Mr. Noland began by expressing gratitude to Mayor Melton and the City of Gary for hosting the celebration of the Double Track opening at the new Miller South Shore Station.

He acknowledged that the rollout of the new schedule did not go as planned. The new schedule, which includes 14 additional trains, needs to fit into the existing Metra system slots. Since the opening on May 14th, NICTD has been operating a new train system. Mr. Noland emphasized that there isn't a single issue to fix but rather a series of adjustments needed.

Mr. Noland mentioned that all NICTD staff are closely monitoring operations and making necessary adjustments. He has been actively riding the trains to identify areas for improvement. Although progress has been made, it hasn't yet reached the desired level. Procedures are currently under analysis, and schedule changes will be implemented if needed. Mr. Noland is urgently addressing issues causing delays and hopes to provide a positive report at the July board meeting.

West Lake Corridor Project

Mr. Noland reported that the West Lake project is now 75% complete, with a projected completion date of May 2025, aiming to be on time and under budget.

NICTD has been collaborating with CSX for some time regarding the bridge on the southern end of the project, which is now in fabrication. The schedule is being reviewed to determine when the bridge can be installed.

The next challenge will be relocating the Hammond stop to the new Hammond Gateway station. The old platform will be demolished, and to connect to the new station, a small segment of track will need to be taken out of service, resulting in single tracking for a six-week period. We are working to minimize the impact on our operations, with the move to the new Hammond Gateway station expected around the end of July.

South Bend Realignment & Airport Agreement

Substantial progress has been made with the South Bend Airport Authority. Counsel for both sides are reviewing documents, and Mr. Noland requests another 60 day extension on the agreement.

A motion for a 60-day extension was made by Mr. Baxmeyer and was seconded by Mr. Arnold, and on roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Metra Track 4 Project

The Metra Track 4 project presents another operational challenge. This area will be a construction zone for the next few years. We are collaborating closely with Metra to minimize delays, though there may be times when a construction schedule will need to be implemented.

This project is essential to accommodate the additional trains NICTD is adding to the system.

RFP for NICTD 20-Year Strategic Plan

NICTD plans on issuing requests for proposals for a new 20-year Strategic Plan. The board adopted a 20-year strategic plan in 2014, that included West Lake, Double Track and getting to the west side of the airport in South Bend. Many items included in that plan are underway, and it seems appropriate to take a fresh look at the plan.

Mr. Noland suggests that we consider our goals for the next 20 years, including both line expansion and the revitalization of existing assets. He asks the board to initiate a Request for Proposal (RFP) to obtain guidance on our focus areas and mission.

A motion to issue a request for proposals was made by Mr. Baxmeyer and was seconded by Mr. Costas, and on roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously.

ADVERTISING AND MARKETING REPORT

Nicole Barker, NICTD's Director of Capital Investment & Implementation, presented the Advertising and Marketing Report.

She introduced the Kit & Friends Passport Campaign, aimed at increasing discretionary family ridership.

The "Better Than Ever" social media campaign, marking the completion of the Double Track Project, was also highlighted.

Bikes on Trains will resume on April 1st, with the service now available on all trains year-round following the Double Track Project's completion. Ridership numbers for Comic Con were slightly lower than those in 2024.

Upcoming events include the Chicago Blues Fest, multiple concerts at Soldier Field this summer, the Chicago Pride Parade at the end of June, the NASCAR Street Race and Festival of the Lakes in July, and Lollapalooza in August.

TICKET SALES, AND RIDERSHIP REPORT

Kelly Wenger, NICTD's Director of Strategic Planning and Grants, presented the Ticket Sales and Ridership reports.

Ticket sales are steady in comparison to 2022. We have continued to offer the BOGO monthly, which is represented in the monthly ticket sale numbers. Digital ticket sales are on the rise, and we anticipate this upward trend will persist.

Ridership in 2024 has grown by approximately 5.2%. Although it remains below pre-pandemic levels, we are optimistic that the completion of the Double Track project will boost future numbers.

The first week preview of the Double Track completion indicates a 11.4% increase compared to 2023. The total busing figures for the project show that approximately

1,139,736 passengers were either transported by bus or impacted by the busing during the Double Track Bussing period.

OPERATIONS REPORT

Mr. Anthony Hall, NICTD Chief Operations Officer presented the On-Time Performance information.

On-time performance was slightly lower than in 2023. However, with the completion of Double Track busing, we expect to see an improvement in on-time performance. Work on the West Lake Project and the PTC testing have affected these numbers.

Mr. Hall acknowledged Mr. Noland's previous comments regarding the efforts being put forth by the NICTD Staff in analyzing the issues that have arisen since the completion of the double track project.

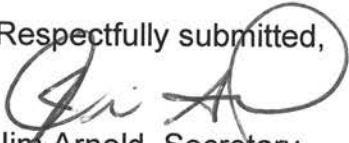
OTHER BUSINESS

Christine Dearing, NICTD CFO, and the financial team were recognized by the Government Finance Officers Association for their Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting. This marks the seventh consecutive time this award has been received

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Arnold made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Baxmeyer, and on roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously. The next board meeting is scheduled for July 29, 2024.

Respectfully submitted,


Jim Arnold, Secretary



PROCUREMENT RECOMMENDATIONS May 20, 2024

Transportation Department:

Sole Source:

- **Training Simulator Upgrades**

PTC Department:

Sole Source:

- **IETMS On-Board Maintenance Service**
- **2024 PTC Support**

Mechanical Department:

Sole Source:

- **Draft Gears**

West Lake:

Sole Source:

- **Camera System – Amendment 1**
- **Project Administration – Amendment 2**

RECOMMENDATION
Transportation Department
Training Simulator Upgrades
May 20, 2024

RECOMMENDATION:

The Transportation Department requests the procurement of training simulator upgrades. The subject purchase requisition covers a system upgrade for the current Corys simulators with new field CGI images from the West Lake Corridor territory, as well as an update to the Double Track Project area, and upgrading the hardware with new computers and monitors. They will also upgrade our Corys software to the latest version of train simulators. The train simulators are currently running an older version of Wabtec on-board software that does not reflect the current industry standard. This procurement will also have a one-year software maintenance agreement.

The train simulators were refurbished as part of the PTC Implementation Project by Corys Inc. using supported hardware that interfaces with their software. Corys Inc. is the only vendor that can upgrade and maintain the software that is compatible with Corys system.

Description	Unit Price
One (1) Year Maintenance Support	\$35,080.00
Computer and GPU Replacement	\$54,790.00
Double Track CGI Simulation Modifications	\$99,230.00
West Lake CGI Simulation Creation	\$59,620.00
Total	\$248,720.00

The District has reviewed the proposed pricing and has determined this pricing to be fair and reasonable based on previous upgrades.

The District recommends that Corys Inc. of Jacksonville, FL, be awarded the contract for training simulator upgrades in the amount of Two Hundred Forty-Eight Thousand Seven Hundred and Twenty Dollars and ⁰⁰/₁₀₀ (\$248,720.00).

The District is requesting that the Board grant the President the authority to issue Notice to Proceed for training simulator upgrades at his discretion, pending RDA and IFA approval.

RECOMMENDATION
PTC Department
IETMS On Board Maintenance Service
May 20, 2024

RECOMMENDATION:

The District approved the purchase of a support contract for the NICTD 72 EMU's and 2 locomotives for the PTC On Board equipment on each of our cars on November 22, 2022, with mutually agreed upon annual escalation clauses. The On-Board support services agreement gives NICTD the latest On-Board Software updates necessary for interoperability and PTC train operations. NICTD needs support for our I-ETMS On Board hardware for troubleshooting, repairs, and maintenance. The District also requires assistance in updating our PTC Safety Plan (PTCSP) and our Change Management services (PTCCM) so NICTD's documentation and quality control is compliant with the Federal Railroad Association (FRA) rules and guidelines.

Currently, Wabtec Railway Electronics, Inc. is the only company capable of supplying I-ETMS On-Board software and hardware maintenance. This is a proprietary product from Wabtec Railway Electronics, Inc. and NICTD cannot purchase spares or get our equipment repaired by other vendors. The pricing received was determined to be fair and reasonable and was compared to previous purchases.

The Staff recommends that Wabtec Railway Electronics, Inc. of Jacksonville, Florida, again be awarded the Contract for On Board Maintenance Service of Seven Hundred Sixty Thousand Seven Hundred and Sixty Dollars and ⁰⁰/₁₀₀ (\$760,760.00) plus annual escalation as described in the service agreement.

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RECOMMENDATION
PTC Department
2024 PTC Support
May 20, 2024

RECOMMENDATION:

The District is looking for support for the new NICTD Tracsis RailComm CAD (Computer Aided Dispatch) BOS (Back Office System) systems. NICTD implemented Princeton's KES, COSMA, MCARRIAGE and ITCM products as part of our current PTC system. When NICTD transitions to the new Tracsis RailComm BOS CAD systems, we will need Princeton support for these systems.

The District has obtained quotes from Princeton Consultants in the amount of \$403,000.00. This is a sole source procurement because these services can only be provided by Princeton Consultants. The District did prepare Independent Cost Estimates of \$430,000.00 for these services and the pricing received from Princeton Consultants was within the budgetary estimate and determined to be fair and reasonable.

The District is requesting the Board grant the President the authority to approve these service agreements in the amount of \$403,000 for work performed in 2024. The District will work with Princeton on a longer-term agreement for future years of support and will bring this to the Board in a future meeting.

The Staff recommends that Princeton Consultants of Princeton, New Jersey be awarded the Contract for 2024 PTC Support in the amount of Four Hundred Three Thousand Dollars and ⁰⁰/₁₀₀ (\$403,000.00).

The Staff is requesting that the Board grant the President the authority to issue the Notice to Proceed for 2024 PTC Support at his discretion.

RECOMMENDATION
Mechanical Department
Draft Gears
May 20, 2024

RECOMMENDATION:

The Mechanical Department requests the procurement of draft gears produced by Wabtec Passenger Transit Division. The District has determined that the current units are beyond repair, and it is more cost effective to replace the existing units with new units. The draft gear is a required component for NICTD's railcars. Without these required parts, NICTD's railcars would be held out of service.

Wabtec draft gears are currently installed on 82 of NICTD's commuter cars. Wabtec is the manufacturer authorized to build these components. This is a sole source procurement due to quality, previous experience, and the proprietary nature of these parts. Wabtec is the OEM for draft gears and prior testing has determined that the Wabtec part is superior and best fits the needs of the District.

Description	Qty	Price	Total
Draft Gears	16	\$22,213.00	\$355,408.00

The District has reviewed the proposed pricing by Wabtec Passenger Transit Division and has determined this pricing to be fair and reasonable based on previous orders of draft gears.

The Staff is requesting the Board grant the President the authority to enter into a contract for an amount of Three Hundred Fifty-Five Thousand, Four Hundred Eight Dollars and ⁰⁰/₁₀₀ (\$355,408.00) with Wabtec Passenger Transit Division of Duncan, South Carolina for draft gears.

RECOMMENDATION
Camera Systems
Amendment 1
May 20, 2024

RECOMMENDATION:

The District executed contract 99774 for Camera Systems with New Age Telecom, Inc. on December 15, 2023, for a not to exceed \$1,221,169.94. Amendment 1 authorizes \$484,167.85 to be added to the contract price. This will ensure the camera equipment on the Monon Corridor is the same as the camera equipment on the Lakeshore Corridor. A credit from the Design Builder (F. H. Paschen/Ragnar Benson Joint Venture) will be received for the equipment and a portion of the work being completed by New Age Telecom. The updated total contract amount would be \$1,705,337.79.

Description	Cost
West Lake Surveillance	\$362,886.86
Hammond Gateway Station	\$121,280.99
Total	\$484,167.85

The District is requesting the Board grant the President the authority to approve amendment 1 to contract 99774 in the amount of Four Hundred Eighty-Four Thousand, One Hundred Sixty-Seven Dollars and ⁸⁵/₁₀₀ (\$484,167.85), pending RDA and IFA approval.

RECOMMENDATION
West Lake Project Administration
Amendment 2
May 20, 2024

RECOMMENDATION:

The District executed contract 89135 for West Lake Project Administration Services with Gannett Fleming Transit & Rail Systems on December 12, 2018, for a not to exceed \$797,563.00. To keep the project moving forward, one amendment has been approved by the District with no cost added to the contract. Amendment 2 authorizes \$266,589.00 be added to the contract price. This additional amount is requested to cover the additional level of effort required. Based on current burn rates, the contract total will be depleted in May of 2024. Gannett Fleming will continue to provide the same level of effort to support NICTD's Line & Signal and PTC Departments, observe and approve testing on behalf of NICTD, and provide technical reviews on Traction Power Substation (TPSS), Signal, WLAN, and PTC submittals through revenue service in May of 2025. The updated total contract amount would be \$1,064,152.00.

The District is requesting the Board grant the President the authority to approve amendment 2 to contract 89135 in the amount of Two Hundred Sixty-Six Thousand, Five Hundred Eighty-Nine Dollars and ⁰⁰/₁₀₀ (\$266,589.00), pending RDA and IFA approval.