



**INORTHERN INDIANA COMMUTER TRANSPORTATION DISTRICT
BOARD MEETING**

**September 30, 2024
Webinar ID: 86573363173
Passcode: 826975**

Public Session – 10:30 a.m. (CST)

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Eddie Melton
Jon Costas

Carl Baxmeyer

Jim Arnold

STAFF PARTICIPANTS

Michael Noland
Chuck Lukmann, Esq.
Mike Rowe
Connie Grashel
Kristan Coslet
Zachery Trunk

Nicole Barker
Justin Miranda
Joseph Cieniawski
Christine Dearing
Darrell Riddell

Tony Siegmund
Anthony Hall
Kelly Wenger
Derek Pflughaupt
Gary Babcoke

OTHERS PRESENT

Joe Crnkovich
Kane Koehneke

Steven Lyons
Greg Price

Jaclyn Sailor
Hodge Patel

CALL TO ORDER

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

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Mr. Baxmeyer requested a motion to approve the Board Meeting Minutes of May 20, 2024. Mr. Melton made a motion to approve the board meeting minutes; Mr. Costas seconded, and on roll call, the motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Zachary Trunk, Local Chairman for the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW), Local 2355, addressed the Board. He acknowledged the recent progress in contract negotiations but wanted the board to know that the IBEW is still the last major labor organization on NICTD's property without a settled contract.

Mr. Trunk emphasized the high skill level of the electricians and felt there was an increase to their workload due to the Double Track project, without an increase in manpower. Mr. Trunk offered his opinion that the electricians are paid significantly less than the industry standard, making retention difficult. He stressed the need for fair wage compensation.

He offered information packets to the Board and expressed a willingness to answer questions after the meeting. Mr. Trunk extended another invitation to Mr. Noland to meet with the electricians at the Shops and was disappointed the meeting had not yet taken place. .

PROCUREMENT

Tony Siegmund, NICTD Purchasing Manager, presented three recommendations to the Board. Each purchasing item was detailed below, with a request for the Board's vote following each recommendation.

The first item was from the Track Department for rail procurement for 2025. Bids were solicited for rail procurement equivalent to over 6 miles, The bid opening, which was held virtually and in-person at the Dune Park office on September 19, 2024, saw seven packets requested. Three bids were received ranging from \$1,017,000 to \$1,228,416.

The staff recommends awarding the contract to A & K Railroad Materials of Valparaiso, Indiana, for \$1,017,287.63. The contract delivery date for this rail is July 2025, but A&K Railroad Materials is confident they will deliver before the end of the year.

Mr. Costas inquired about the lifespan of rail. Mr. Siegmund explained that 115-pound continuously welded rail lasts a long time but requires replacement in curves due to increased wear. The current procurement includes general maintenance items and upgrades from 100-pound rail to the standard 115-pound rail. The staff is requesting that the Board grant the President the authority to issue the Notice to Proceed for Rail for 2025 at his discretion.

Mr. Arnold made a motion to grant authority to the NICTD President to issue a Notice to Proceed for Rail for 2025 at his discretion. The motion was seconded by Mr. Melton and, upon a roll call vote, passed unanimously.

Mr. Siegmund presented the second procurement item, which involved the bid opening for the Strategic Business Plan. The Administration Department solicited proposals from

qualified consultants for a new 20-year Strategic Business Plan, with a private proposal opening held at the Dune Park Office on September 5, 2024.

Following interviews with all the proposers, AECOM Technical Services, Inc. was identified as the strongest proposer due to their comprehensive and complete approach. A contingency amount of \$100,000.00 will be added to cover any unforeseen conditions, to be used only with District approval. Additional scope items were negotiated, totaling an additional \$823,813.00. The independent cost estimate for the project is \$692,642.00, and the total contract value is \$923,813.00.

Staff recommends awarding the contract to AECOM Technical Services, Inc. of Indianapolis, Indiana, for \$923,813.00. The Staff also requests that the Board grant the President the authority to issue the Notice to Proceed for the Strategic Business Plan at his discretion.

Mr. Costas inquired about the scope identification. Mr. Noland confirmed that the scope includes a 20-year State of Good Repair and potential rail service enhancements, such as the West Lake line extension and new potential service to Valparaiso and downtown South Bend. The scope will also address station improvements at Gary Metro Center and a new potential station at New Carlisle, as well as the purchase of 75 to 100 pieces of rolling stock with various propulsion options. The scope will also evaluate facility needs including a new rail yard in Hammond and possibly others to support growth. The board's previous strategic plan is nearly complete, and a new plan is needed. Input from stakeholders is anticipated. The goal is to present this plan to the board for approval in September 2025.

Mr. Costas made a motion to grant authority to the NICTD President to issue a Notice to Proceed for the Strategic Business Plan, at his discretion. The motion was seconded by Mr. Melton and, upon a roll call vote, passed unanimously.

Mr. Siegmund presented the third procurement item, West Lake Design-Build, Change Order 17. This change order represents a total of \$168,023.05, covering three Potential Change Orders (PCOs): numbers 191, 224, and 237. Independent cost estimates have been prepared for each of these PCOs and have been determined to be fair and reasonable. The district is requesting the board grant the president the authority to approve Change Order Number 17 in the amount of \$168,023.05.

Mr. Melton made a motion to grant authority to the NICTD President to issue a Notice to Proceed for West Lake Design Build Change Order 17 at his discretion. The motion was seconded by Mr. Costas, and, upon a roll call vote, passed unanimously.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Noland discussed labor relations, noting that at the July meeting, several representatives provided information to the Board. He reported that Joe Cieniawski, our Director of Human and Labor Relations, with support from our managers and labor organizations, has secured contracts for the majority of our employees.

Regarding the IBEW, Mr. Noland acknowledged his commitment to engage more actively. Initially, opportunities to resolve contracts seemed limited, but significant progress was made within weeks. Although agreements with the IBEW and TCU clerks are still pending, considerable success has been achieved overall.

Mr. Noland expressed confidence in achieving our goals. He said that although we had hoped to announce an agreement with the IBEW today, we trust that our strong track record will lead to finalizing the agreement soon. He concluded by expressing satisfaction with the progress made and celebrating the positive outcomes when both sides reach a fair resolution.

DOUBLE TRACK PROJECT

The Double Track project is nearing completion, with ongoing closeout activities and required reporting to the federal government. The parking structure and station at 11th Street in Michigan City, developed by Flaherty & Collins, are still under construction. NICTD's commitment to costs is capped at \$16 million, although the current anticipated total cost is approximately \$25 million.

We are finalizing a few remaining closeout items with Walsh/Herzog, the main contractor, and are expected to be completed by the end of the week. The total change orders for the Double Track project are 2.1% over the contract value, which is a very positive result.

A train schedule revision was issued on August 20, 2024, and while improvements have been made for our on-time performance, we are working towards additional improvements. We will provide further details in the Operations Report. Overall, the Double Track project is nearly 100% complete, with only a few remaining items to be addressed.

WEST LAKE PROJECT

The West Lake project is currently at approximately 85% completion. A significant aspect involves transitioning our dispatching system. We are switching to a new computer aided dispatch ("CAD") system provider, Tracsis, which resulted in substantial cost reductions for the West Lake project. This new system is unique in the industry, where Wabtec currently holds a monopoly.

The new CAD system must be operational before transitioning from the current Hammond station to the new Hammond Gateway station. We have experienced several

delays attempting to implement this new system, but as of today, the system has been running successfully for eight days.

The construction cutover to Hammond Gateway Station is scheduled to begin on Friday, October 4th, with single tracking as we relocate main track #1 between the old Hammond Station and the new Hammond Gateway Station for approximately 13 days. Following this, we will conduct testing and commissioning and begin the process to relocate main track #2. By the end of October, all operations will be at the new Hammond Gateway Station.

We are targeting May of next year to open for revenue service. Additionally, we are working with our joint venture partners to resolve issues related to the underpass construction at Main Street in Munster-Dyer, necessary for parking.

SOUTH BEND REALIGNMENT

Mr. Noland provided an update on the ongoing negotiations with the South Bend Airport Authority, emphasizing the important contributions of Trustees Arnold and Baxmeyer. He noted that significant progress has been made, with current discussions centered on finalizing agreements, easements, and licenses. Both the NICTD Board and the South Bend Airport Authority Board approved the interim agreement in July.

Currently, the negotiations are addressing the final details of the agreements. Weekly meetings are being held to resolve these issues and finalize the easement and lease agreement. Despite the progress, some minor issues remain, which are typical at the end of contract negotiations.

Mr. Noland emphasized the importance of these negotiations, and the collaborative efforts of all parties involved to reach a fair and equitable agreement.

As the current agreement expires today, Mr. Noland requested a 60-day extension to continue negotiations and finalize the agreements. The Board granted this authority, allowing for continued discussions and the resolution of outstanding issues.

Mr. Arnold made a motion to extend the existing agreement for 60 days, until November 30, 2024, which was seconded by Mr. Baxmeyer. The motion passed unanimously upon roll call vote.

METRA TRACK 4 PROJECT

Mr. Noland provided an update on the Metra Track 4 project, a \$200 million investment being made by NICTD. Significant milestones have been reached, and the project continues to progress. The project involves extending the current three-track system to a four-track system for the last mile and a half into the terminal, requiring extensive reconfiguration of the rail yard near Van Buren and Millennium stations.

This area is densely populated with storage tracks and handles over 200 trains daily, making it a complex engineering challenge. The construction has caused some delays for both Metra and South Shore Line services. Riders are asked for their patience as train performance may be affected by the ongoing construction activities.

Despite these challenges, the project is expected to provide long-term benefits for both Metra and South Shore Line. Work will continue into the fall, and the project is being closely monitored to ensure its successful completion.

ADVERTISING AND MARKETING REPORT

Nicole Barker, NICTD's Director of Capital Investment & Implementation, presented the Advertising and Marketing Report. She announced that the first Quiet Zone for Michigan City will roll out on October 7, 2024, marking a significant milestone in the Double Track Project and for the South Shore Line.

Ms. Barker highlighted key advertising and marketing efforts, including the well-received "First Responders Ride Free" event in September and renewed promotions for train travel to Notre Dame and Chicago Bears football games. She also provided an update on the Michigan City 11th Street station, noting the availability of 437 surface-level parking spaces and plans for enhanced signage.

The app is being promoted to simplify ticket purchases, and the newly implemented chatbot has achieved over 60% satisfaction in its first few weeks. Ridership for Lollapalooza was exceptionally high, and special stops were made at McCormick Place for the International Manufacturing Technology Show. Upcoming events include the Chicago Marathon, the Mag Mile Light Festival, and the "Veterans Ride Free" event, with dates to be announced soon.

TICKET SALES AND RIDERSHIP REPORT

Kelly Wenger, NICTD's Director of Strategic Planning and Grants, presented the Ticket Sales and Ridership reports. She introduced a new visual comparison of ticket sales by type and corresponding ridership. The data showed fluctuations due to the "buy one, get one" promotion, with many passengers taking advantage of this offer. Ridership trends were positive, with daily rides surpassing 7,000, a significant milestone as pre-pandemic levels were around 10,000. The conclusion of busing has helped increase ridership, as passengers no longer need a two-seat ride to Chicago. The overall trend is slow but steady progress.

OPERATIONS REPORT

Anthony Hall, Chief Operations Officer, presented the Operations Report. He noted that the first new Double Track schedule was implemented on May 14, 2024. In July, a snapshot of the new operation schedule was presented, highlighting initial challenges. Comprehensive adjustments were made to the schedule on August 20, 2024, and the report now includes data from every train run since then. Hall acknowledged the team's efforts in managing 13 significant events that impacted operations, including PTC issues, brush fires, and the Democratic National Convention. Recent management changes have been made to better handle such situations. The goal is to capture detailed performance metrics, including trains running less than 10 minutes late, to improve service reliability. Mr. Hall also mentioned the challenge of integrating 144 new employees and ongoing construction and maintenance efforts, which have been continuous since Memorial Day.

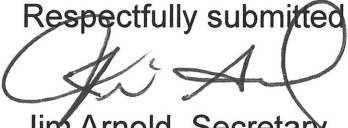
Mr. Noland commented that the team is analyzing train performance on an hourly and minute basis to identify improvement opportunities. Improved communication with Amtrak has reduced delays, especially at the 10th Street intersection. Regular meetings with Amtrak and Metra are enhancing performance, with safety as a top priority. Minor schedule adjustments are planned, and rider feedback is actively sought. Weekday ridership is at 7,000 per day, about 65% of 2019 levels, while weekend ridership is close to 2019 numbers. Increased bike usage on trains is causing some delays, which are being addressed. The team is committed to continuous improvement and effective communication with all stakeholders.

OTHER BUSINESS

None

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Costas made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Arnold, and on roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously. The next board meeting is scheduled for November 25, 2024.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Arnold, Secretary



PROCUREMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

September 30, 2024

Track Department:

Bid:

- Rail for 2025

Administration Department:

Bid:

- Strategic Business Plan

West Lake Project:

Sole Source:

- Design Build – Change Order 17

RECOMMENDATION

Track Department

Rail for 2025

September 30, 2024

A. SCOPE

The Track Department has requested bids for rail. This project includes twenty-one (21) 1600' head-hardened strings of rail. Bids were solicited and a public bid opening was held virtually and in-person at the Dune Park Office on September 19, 2024.

B. ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW

1. Legal Notifications

The request for bids was advertised throughout the region and nationally. The legal advertisements were placed in the following publications:

South Bend Tribune - South Bend, Indiana
Herald-Dispatch - LaPorte County, Indiana
Chesterton Tribune - Chesterton, Indiana
Gary Crusader - Gary, Indiana
The Times - Hammond, Indiana
NICTD Plan Room

2. Bid Review

A total of seven (7) packets were requested prior to the bid opening. The request resulted in the receipt of three (3) bids.

3. DBE & Required Forms

The bids were evaluated for responsiveness to determine if they could be accepted for further review. It was determined that the firms submitted all the necessary forms and were approved by the appropriate NICTD staff. All forms have been correctly submitted and were found to be within the guidelines set forth by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA).

Bidder	Eligible Bidder	Debar. Susp.	Non-Discrim.	Rest. Lobby	Drug Free	Cert. of Qual.	E-Verify	Iran Invst.	Buy Amer.
A&K Railroad Materials Inc. Valparaiso, IN	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
LB Foster Company Pittsburgh, PA	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Progress Rail Services Corporation Albertville, AL	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

C. ENGINEERING REVIEW & PRICE ANALYSIS

The responsive bids were evaluated for compliance with the technical specifications. All bidders were determined to be responsible and met the technical specifications.

The lowest responsive and responsible bid for rail is A&K Railroad Materials Inc., with a bid of \$1,017,287.63. This is 17.9% (\$221,712.37) less than the engineer's estimate of \$1,239,000.00.

Company	\$/Linear Foot	Total Cost
A&K Railroad Materials Inc.	\$30.28	\$1,017,287.63
LB Foster Company	\$33.00	\$1,108,711.32
Progress Rail Services Corporation	\$36.56	\$1,228,416.00

D. DELIVERY

A&K Railroad Materials Inc. can meet the District's delivery schedule for July 2025.

E. RECOMMENDATION

The Staff recommends that A&K Railroad Materials Inc. of Valparaiso, Indiana be awarded the contract for rail in the amount of One Million, Seventeen Thousand, Two Hundred Eighty-Seven Dollars and ⁶³/₁₀₀ (\$1,017,287.63).

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

RECOMMENDATION
Administration Department
Strategic Business Plan
September 30, 2024

A. SCOPE

The Administration Department has requested proposals from qualified consultants for a new 20-year strategic business plan. Proposals were solicited and a private proposal opening was held at the Dune Park Office on September 5, 2024.

B. ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW

1. Legal Notifications

The request for proposals was advertised throughout the region and nationally. The legal advertisements were placed in the following publications:

South Bend Tribune - South Bend, Indiana
Herald-Dispatch - LaPorte County, Indiana
Chesterton Tribune - Chesterton, Indiana
Gary Crusader - Gary, Indiana
The Times - Hammond, Indiana
NICTD Plan Room

2. Proposal Review

A total of twenty-five (25) packets were requested prior to the proposal opening. The request resulted in the receipt of three (3) proposals.

3. DBE & Required Forms

The proposals were evaluated for responsiveness to determine if they could be accepted for further review.

It was determined that the firms submitted all the necessary forms and were approved by the appropriate NICTD staff. All forms have been correctly submitted and were found to be within the guidelines set forth by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA).

Proposer	Eligible Bidder	Debar. Susp.	DBE	Non-Discrim.	Rest. Lobby	Drug Free	Cert. of Qual.	E-Verify	Iran Invst.
AECOM Technical Services, Inc. Indianapolis, IN	X	X	18%	X	X	X	X	X	X
Cambridge Systematics Medford, MA	X	X	11%	X	X	X	X	X	X
HDR Engineering Inc. Rosemont, IL	X	X	10%	X	X	X	X	X	X

C. STAFF REVIEW

Team Evaluation Review:

The team was composed of three (3) individuals that evaluated the proposals on:

- i) Company Overview
- ii) Project Overview
- iii) Project Team
- iv) Related Experience
- v) Additional Information

The evaluation review resulted in interviews with three (3) firms.

Proposer	Rank
AECOM Technical Services, Inc.	1
Cambridge Systematics	2
HDR Engineering Inc.	3

The District held interviews with all proposers to clarify the details of their proposals. As a result, AECOM Technical Services, Inc. was identified as the strongest proposer. AECOM Technical Services, Inc. had the most comprehensive and complete approach.

A contingency amount of \$100,000.00 will be added to allow for unforeseen conditions. Contingency is only to be used upon approval from the District. Additional scope items were negotiated and represent an additional \$823,813.00.

The independent cost estimate (ICE) for this project is \$692,642.00. The cost of the project is deemed fair and reasonable, and the total contract value will be \$923,813.00.

D. RECOMMENDATION

The Staff recommends that AECOM Technical Services, Inc. of Indianapolis, Indiana be awarded the contract for a strategic business plan in the amount of Nine Hundred Twenty-Three Thousand, Eight Hundred Thirteen Dollars and ⁰⁰/₁₀₀ (\$923,813.00).

The Staff is requesting that the Board grant the President the authority to issue the Notice to Proceed for a strategic business plan at his discretion.

RECOMMENDATION
West Lake Design-Build
Change Order 17
September 30, 2024

RECOMMENDATION:

The District executed contract 94028 for West Lake Design-Build with FH Paschen/Ragnar Benson Joint Venture on October 29, 2020, for a not to exceed cost of \$554,940,521.00. To keep the project moving forward, the District has approved sixteen change orders totaling \$31,256,490.79. Change order seventeen authorizes an additional \$168,023.05. The updated total contract price would be \$586,365,034.84.

PCO	Change Description	Cost
191	Fence Grounding Additional Cost	\$69,249.03
224	Power Service at 68.8 LOC A	\$58,119.77
237	Power Service at 69.2 Snowmelter	\$40,654.25
Total		\$168,023.05

An independent cost estimate has been prepared for the PCOs and the costs associated with each have been determined to be fair and reasonable.

The District is requesting the Board grant the President the authority to approve change order seventeen to contract 94028 in the amount of One Hundred Sixty-Eight Thousand, Twenty-Three Dollars and ⁰⁵/₁₀₀ (\$168,023.05), pending RDA and IFA approval.