



**NORTHERN INDIANA COMMUTER TRANSPORTATION DISTRICT  
BOARD MEETING**

**November 25, 2024**

**Webinar ID: 881 08729 1474**

**Passcode: 347987**

**Public Session – 10:30 a.m. (CST)**

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**

Michael Smith  
Jon Costas

Carl Baxmeyer

Jim Arnold

**STAFF PARTICIPANTS**

Michael Noland  
Chuck Lukmann, Esq.  
Mike Rowe  
Connie Grashel  
Kristan Coslet  
Melissa Jones  
Kevin Dwyan.

Nicole Barker  
Justin Miranda  
Joseph Cieniawski  
Christine Dearing  
Darrell Riddell  
Amber Kettering

Tony Siegmund  
Anthony Hall  
Kelly Wenger  
Derek Pflughaupt  
Gary Babcoke  
Jessie Watts, Jr

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Joe Crnkovich  
Jim Dedelow  
Doug Ross

Steven Lyons  
Thomas Schoyer  
Hodge Pate

Greg Price  
Andy Kostielney  
Timothy Whalen

**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. Jim Arnold, Carl Baxmeyer and Jon Costas were present. Eddie Melton was absent.

**BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

Mr. Smith requested a motion to approve the Board Meeting Minutes of November 24, 2024. Mr. Baxmeyer made a motion to approve the board meeting minutes; Mr. Costas seconded, and on roll call, the motion passed unanimously.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Jim Dedlow of WJOB Radio and Tom Schoyer of the NWI Times briefly discussed the marketing proposal they previously submitted to the procurement team. They highlighted the key ideas they had presented.

## **PROCUREMENT**

Tony Siegmund, NICTD Purchasing Manager, presented four 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 Maintainer Trucks. The Track Department has requested bids for two (2) maintainer trucks. Bids were solicited and a public bid opening was held virtually and in-person at the Dune Park Office on October 31, 2024.

A total of seven (7) packets were requested prior to the bid opening. The request resulted in the receipt of two (2) bids.

The Staff recommended that Wiskerchen Truck & Equipment LLC of Spencer, Wisconsin be awarded the contract for maintainer trucks in the amount of Two Hundred Thirty-Six Thousand, Six Hundred Six Dollars and <sup>00</sup>/<sub>100</sub> (\$236,606.00).

The Staff requested that the Board grant the President the authority to issue the Notice to Proceed for maintainer trucks at his discretion.

Mr. Baxmeyer made a motion to grant authority to the NICTD President to issue a Notice to Proceed for procurement of two maintainer trucks, at his discretion. The motion was seconded by Mr. Costa and, upon a roll call vote, passed unanimously.

Mr. Siegmund presented the second procurement item. The Administration Department has requested proposals from qualified firms for marketing services. Proposals were solicited and a private proposal opening was held virtually on November 7, 2024.

A total of sixteen (16) packets were requested prior to the proposal opening. The request resulted in the receipt of six (6) proposals.

The District held interviews with all proposers to clarify the details of their proposals. The interviews revealed that Group 7even had the most comprehensive and creative approach to the District's marketing needs. Group 7even proposed a media budget that expanded social media uses and ongoing strategies to increase followers, shares, and ultimately ridership. As a result, Group 7even LLC was identified as the strongest proposer. Group 7even LLC had the most comprehensive and complete approach.

The independent cost estimate (ICE) for this project was \$2,998,449.00 for five (5) years. The project cost was determined to be fair and reasonable, with an annual contract value of \$609,960.00 for three (3) years, and an option to extend for an additional two (2) years at the same rate, totaling \$3,049,800.00.

The Staff recommended that Group 7even LLC of Valparaiso, Indiana be awarded the contract for marketing services in the amount of Three Million, Forty-Nine Thousand, Eight Hundred Dollars and <sup>00</sup>/<sub>100</sub> (\$3,049,800.00). This contract amount reflects a 3-year contract with the discretion of the District to extend for another two (2) – one (1) year extensions.

The Staff requested that the Board grant the President the authority to issue the Notice to Proceed for marketing services at his discretion.

Mr. Arnold made a motion to grant authority to the NICTD President to issue a Notice to Proceed for the Marketing Services, at his discretion. The motion was seconded by Mr. Costas and, on a roll call vote, passed unanimously.

Mr. Siegmund presented the third procurement item, Engineering Department, Custodial Services. The Engineering Department requested proposals from qualified companies for custodial services. This included cleaning passenger stations and administrative offices. Proposals were solicited and a private proposal opening was held on November 11, 2024.

A total of eight (8) packets were requested prior to the proposal opening. The request resulted in the receipt of four (4) proposals. It was determined that the firms correctly submitted all the necessary forms and were approved by the appropriate NICTD staff. All forms were found to be within the guidelines set forth by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA).

Based on the interviews, Club Clean and The Cleaning Niche were identified as the strongest proposers. To ensure cleanliness and operational efficiency across the railroad, the District decided that the best course of action was dividing the work into three distinct contracts to best address specific needs. Contract 1 includes all office buildings, contract 2 will include the East passenger stations, Hudson Lake through Portage/Ogden Dunes, and contract 3 will include the West passenger stations, Miller through Hegewisch and the future Monon Corridor stations.

The Cleaning Niche will be awarded contracts 1 and 2 at \$481,230.51 for three (3) years, with an option to extend for an additional two (2) years totaling \$345,363.08. Club Clean will be awarded contract 3 at \$1,379,157.35 for three (3) years, with an option to extend for an additional two (2) years totaling \$1,004,121.49.

The independent cost estimate (ICE) for the first year of custodial services is \$612,230.17 and the actual cost was determined to be fair and reasonable at \$579,112.74.

The Staff recommended that The Cleaning Niche, LLC of Portage, Indiana be awarded contracts 1 and 2 for custodial services in the amount of Eight Hundred Twenty-Six Thousand, Five Hundred Ninety-Three Dollars and  $\frac{59}{100}$  (\$826,593.59). The Staff recommended that Club Clean of Michigan City, Indiana be awarded contract 3 for custodial services in the amount of Two Million, Three Hundred Eighty-Three Thousand, Two Hundred Seventy-Eight Dollars and  $\frac{84}{100}$  (\$2,383,278.84).

These contract amounts reflect a 3-year contract with the discretion of the District to extend for another two (2) – one (1) year extensions.

The Staff requested that the Board grant the President the authority to issue both Notices to Proceed for custodial services at his discretion.

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

Mr. Siegmund presented the fourth procurement item, Mechanical Department, Passenger Communication System.

The Mechanical Department requested proposals from qualified firms for a passenger communication system. This project included upgrading the outdated cellular and Wi-Fi routers with modern and reliable technology, modifying the existing Public Address system onboard the railcars for automated announcements, implementing a passenger counting system, transmitting GPS location data for NICTD employees and the public to have the capability to view railcar/train locations, and seamlessly integrating these features into a user-friendly interface for NICTD's Passenger Communication department to automatically and/or manually trigger announcements onboard NICTD's railcars and stations, receive live and historical passenger counting data, and modify train schedules. Proposals were solicited and a private proposal opening was held virtually on October 10, 2024.

A total of fifteen (15) packets were requested prior to the proposal opening. The request resulted in the receipt of five (5) proposals. It was determined that the firms correctly submitted all the necessary forms and were approved by the appropriate NICTD staff. All forms were found to be within the guidelines set forth by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA).

The District held interviews with four (4) proposers to clarify the details of their proposals. As a result, Clever Devices was identified as the strongest proposer. Clever Devices had the most comprehensive and complete approach. Additional scope items were negotiated and included in the final scope of work. The District has a contract that will encompass the entire scope of work that also includes 10 years of software support.

The independent cost estimate (ICE) for this project was \$6,552,600.00. The project cost was deemed fair and reasonable, and the total contract value will be \$6,877,812.00.

The Staff recommended that Clever Devices Ltd. of Woodbury, New York be awarded the contract for the passenger communication system in the amount of Six Million, Eight Hundred Seventy-Seven Thousand, Eight Hundred Twelve Dollars and <sup>00</sup>/<sub>100</sub> (\$6,877,812.00).

Mr. Costas made a motion to grant authority to the NICTD President to issue a Notice to Proceed for the passenger communications system, at his discretion. The motion was seconded by Mr. Baxmeyer, and, upon a roll call vote, passed unanimously.

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

### **DOUBLE TRACK PROJECT**

The Double Track project is nearing the completion stage of the contract. A few as-built drawings are pending receipt, after which the final payment can be released to Walsh Herzog.

The Double Track Two project includes the construction of a parking garage structure in Michigan City. This is a joint venture with Michigan City, with our contribution being the funds allocated for the garage project. The old façade of the station building is currently being integrated into the structure. The parking garage is expected to be completed by February or March 2025.

The contract with Hasse Construction, responsible for building the station in Miller, is almost finalized. A few remaining issues are being addressed by the council to close the contract.

### **WEST LAKE PROJECT**

The West Lake Project is 90% complete. The old Hammond station has been closed, and the new Hammond Gateway station is now open. This location will serve as the junction for the South Shore main line and the Monon Corridor line. To facilitate this, the tracks were relocated to the south. We initially operated on a single track while one track was moved, then transitioned to the new track, shut down the second track, and moved it to the south. We are now operating on the new tracks.

Several tasks needed to be completed before closing the original station. One of these tasks was transitioning from the old Computer Aided Dispatch system to the new one.



Another challenge was securing an agreement with CSX to construct an underpass at the southern end of the project, which has not yet been reached.

The projected completion date was May 2025, but the contractor has indicated this may not be achievable. We are currently working with the contractor to recover some lost time.

## **SOUTH BEND REALIGNMENT**

Mr. Noland reminded the board that for 33 years, we have been accessing South Bend Airport from the east side, on a temporary agreement. After three years of negotiations, we have now secured a new agreement to enter directly from the west side of the airport. Trustees Arnold and Baxmeyer have been instrumental in reaching this agreement with the South Bend Airport Authority, which was signed by the airport board in mid-November.

The agreement grants NICTD an easement to enter the airport from the west side and includes a separate provision for NICTD to have space inside the airport for passenger accommodation. Mr. Noland has recommended that the board accept this agreement and pursue available opportunities to secure capital funding for the project.

Mr. Baxmeyer made a motion to grant authority to the NICTD President to issue a Notice to Proceed, accepting the South Bend Airport agreement. The motion was seconded by Mr. Arnold, and, upon a roll call vote, passed unanimously.

## **METRA TRACK 4 PROJECT**

The Metra Track 4 Project is crucial for enhancing daily operations. Expanding the Metra Electric District to four tracks into the terminal will reduce crossover moves, which currently cause delays due to the high volume of trains entering and exiting the station daily. This expansion will provide two dedicated routes in and out of our terminal. In December, the terminal will need to be completely shut down for two weekends, affecting both Metra and South Shore Line trains. During this period, passengers will be bused between 18th Street and Millennium Station. This temporary shutdown is necessary to complete the project.

## **ADVERTISING AND MARKETING REPORT**

Nicole Barker, NICTD's Director of Capital Investment & Implementation, presented the Advertising and Marketing Report. Ms. Barker shared photos of the new Hammond Gateway station. The marketing efforts are currently focused on highlighting the upcoming addition of two separate lines to better serve our passengers.

Station maps, online maps, and the trip planner will need to be updated to reflect the new stops and stations. Current efforts are concentrated on ensuring that accurate and up-to-date information is communicated to our passengers.

Ms. Barker reported that our Veteran's Ride Free program was once again a tremendous success, with the number of passengers utilizing the program nearly doubling compared to last year.

Marketing efforts are currently focused on promoting holiday events, highlighting the convenience of using the train to access these activities. The holiday schedule was shared, along with information about upcoming events such as Chicago Bears games, the NHL Winter Classic in December, and the Cubs Convention and SoxFest in January.

## **TICKET SALES AND RIDERSHIP REPORT**

Kelly Wenger, NICTD's Director of Strategic Planning and Grants, presented the Ticket Sales and Ridership reports. Ms. Wenger noted that the reports still reflect the busing operations through May. Once the passenger counters are installed, we will gain a clearer understanding of ridership numbers. The buy one, get one free monthly pass are still being offered.

Recovery is steadily increasing compared to pre-pandemic numbers in 2019. Ms. Wenger provided a comprehensive overview of the 2024 statistics, which indicate a consistent rise in ridership.

## **OPERATIONS REPORT**

Anthony Hall, Chief Operations Officer, presented the Operations Report. He noted that the On Time Performance numbers are improving. We continue to identify operational areas that impede daily activities.

Enhanced communication with Metra and Amtrak has significantly improved daily operations and on-time performance. We will continue to hold weekly calls to maintain open lines of communication.

We are working on an upcoming schedule adjustment to identify areas needing modification. A revised schedule is expected to be implemented after the beginning of the year.

Mr. Noland addressed the recent issue of flat spots on wheels. This fall, we have observed an unprecedented increase in the number of flat spots. All wheels are currently

being inspected and analyzed to determine the cause and identify the best preventive measures.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

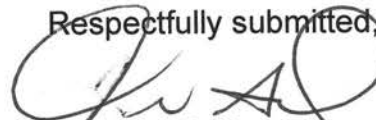
Mr. Noland presented a tentative schedule of board meeting dates for 2005. Chairman Smith asked the board for a motion to accept the proposed dates.

Mr. Baxmeyer made a motion to accept the proposed dates. The motion was seconded by Mr. Costas, and, upon a roll call vote, passed unanimously.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Costas 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 January 27, 2025.

Respectfully submitted,



Jim Arnold, Secretary





## PROCUREMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

November 25, 2024

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### Track Department:

#### Bid:

- Maintainer Trucks

### Administration Department:

#### Proposal:

- Marketing

### Engineering Department:

#### Proposal:

- Custodial Cleaning

### Mechanical Department:

#### Proposal:

- Passenger Communication System

**RECOMMENDATION**  
**Track Department**  
**Maintainer Trucks**  
 November 25, 2024

**A. SCOPE**

The Track Department has requested bids for two (2) maintainer trucks. Bids were solicited and a public bid opening was held virtually and in-person at the Dune Park Office on October 31, 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 two (2) bids.

**3. Required Forms**

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

It was determined that one firm submitted all the necessary forms and was approved by the appropriate NICTD staff. All forms were found to be within the guidelines set forth by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA). The second firm did not complete all the necessary forms and was deemed non-responsive.

Bidder	Eligible Bidder	Debar. Susp.	Non-Disc.	Rest. Lobby	Drug Free	Cert. of Qual.	E-Verify	Iran Invst.	Buy Amer.
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Wiskerchen Truck & Equipment LLC Spencer, WI	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Custom Truck One Source Kansas City, MO	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

### C. ENGINEERING REVIEW & PRICE ANALYSIS

The responsive bid was evaluated for compliance to the technical specifications. The bidder was determined to be responsible and met the technical specifications.

The lowest responsive and responsible bid for maintainer trucks is Wiskerchen Truck & Equipment LLC, with a bid of \$236,606.00. This is 0.68% (\$1,606.00) more than the engineer's estimate of \$235,000.00.

Description	Cost
2024/25 1 Ton Maintainer Pickup with Rail Gear	\$120,053.00
2024/25 1 Ton Maintainer Pickup with Rail Gear	\$120,053.00
Trade-in - #4426 2016 Chevy 2500	(\$1,500.00)
Trade-in - #4479 2017 Chevy 2500	(\$2,000.00)
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$236,606.00</b>

### D. DELIVERY

Wiskerchen Truck & Equipment LLC can meet the District's delivery schedule for October 2025.

### E. RECOMMENDATION

The Staff recommends that Wiskerchen Truck & Equipment LLC of Spencer, Wisconsin be awarded the contract for maintainer trucks in the amount of Two Hundred Thirty-Six Thousand, Six Hundred Six Dollars and <sup>00</sup>/<sub>100</sub> (\$236,606.00).

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

**RECOMMENDATION**  
**Administration Department**  
Marketing Services  
November 25, 2024

**A. SCOPE**

The Administration Department has requested proposals from qualified firms for marketing services. Proposals were solicited and a private proposal opening was held virtually on November 7, 2024.

The District currently contracts with a marketing firm to market, advertise and provide promotional services for the South Shore Line through various media distribution centers, including social media. The selected firm will also provide the conduit to these media distribution centers that will provide the best exposure for the South Shore Line to gain market share. The primary purpose of this procurement is to increase ridership, both weekday peak and off-peak, as well as weekend.

**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 sixteen (16) packets were requested prior to the proposal opening. The request resulted in the receipt of six (6) proposals.

**3. Required Forms**

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

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

Proposer	Eligible Bidder	Debar. Susp.	Non-Discrim.	Rest. Lobby	Drug Free	Cert. of Qual.	E-Verify	Iran Invst.	Buy Amer.
BAC Marketing Michigan City, IN	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Duneland Media LaPorte, IN	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Group 7even LLC Valparaiso, IN	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
IdeaSeat Marketing & Advertising Dyer, IN	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
LKH&S Inc. Chicago, IL	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Staples Marketing LLC dba AFFIRM Pewaukee, WI	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

### C. STAFF REVIEW

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

- i) Project Understanding/Technical Approach
- ii) Project Management/Execution Plan
- iii) Qualifications of Personnel
- iv) Pricing

Proposer	Rank
Group 7even LLC	1
LKH&S Inc.	2
Staples Marketing LLC dba AFFIRM	3
BAC Marketing	4
Duneland Media	5
IdeaSeat Marketing & Advertising	6

The District held interviews with all proposers to clarify the details of their proposals. The interviews revealed that Group 7even had the most comprehensive and creative

approach to the District's marketing needs. Group 7even proposed a media budget that expanded social media uses and ongoing strategies to increase followers, shares, and ultimately ridership. As a result, Group 7even LLC was identified as the strongest proposer. Group 7even LLC had the most comprehensive and complete approach.

The independent cost estimate (ICE) for this project was \$2,998,449.00 for five (5) years. The project cost is determined to be fair and reasonable, with an annual contract value of \$609,960.00 for three (3) years, and an option to extend for an additional two (2) years at the same rate, totaling \$3,049,800.00.

#### **D. RECOMMENDATION**

The Staff recommends that Group 7even LLC of Valparaiso, Indiana be awarded the contract for marketing services in the amount of Three Million, Forty-Nine Thousand, Eight Hundred Dollars and <sup>00</sup>/<sub>100</sub> (\$3,049,800.00). This contract amount reflects a 3-year contract with the discretion of the District to extend for another two (2) – one (1) year extensions.

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



**RECOMMENDATION**  
**Engineering Department**  
 Custodial Services  
 November 25, 2024

**A. SCOPE**

The Engineering Department has requested proposals from qualified companies for custodial services. This includes cleaning passenger stations and administrative offices. Proposals were solicited and a private proposal opening was held virtually on November 11, 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
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- Gary Crusader - Gary, Indiana
- The Times - Hammond, Indiana
- NICTD Plan Room

**2. Proposal Review**

A total of eight (8) packets were requested prior to the proposal opening. The request resulted in the receipt of four (4) proposals.

**3. Required Forms**

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

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

Proposer	Eligible	Debar.	Non-	Rest.	Drug	Cert. of Qual.	E-	Iran Invst.	Buy Amer.
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	Bidder	Susp.	Discrim.	Lobby	Free		Verify		
Alpha Building Maintenance Bridgeview, IL	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Club Clean Michigan City, IN	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
The Cleaning Niche Portage, IN	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
The Performance Companies Gary, IN	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

### C. STAFF REVIEW

The evaluation team was composed of two (2) individuals that assessed the proposals on:

- i) Pricing Structure
- ii) Manpower Plan/Approach
- iii) Previous Similar Customer Experience
- iv) Financial Strength

The evaluation review resulted in interviews with all four (4) firms.

Proposer	Rank
Club Clean	1
The Cleaning Niche, LLC	1
Alpha Building Maintenance	3
The Performance Companies	4

Based on the interviews, Club Clean and The Cleaning Niche were identified as the strongest proposers. To ensure cleanliness and operational efficiency across the railroad, the District has decided that the best course of action is dividing the work into three distinct contracts to best address specific needs. Contract 1 includes all office buildings, contract 2 will include the East passenger stations, Hudson Lake through Portage/Ogden Dunes, and contract 3 will include the West passenger stations, Miller through Hegewisch and the future Monon Corridor stations.

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#### **D. RECOMMENDATION**

The Staff recommends that The Cleaning Niche, LLC of Portage, Indiana be awarded the contracts 1 and 2 for custodial services in the amount of Eight Hundred Twenty-Six Thousand, Five Hundred Ninety-Three Dollars and  $\frac{59}{100}$  (\$826,593.59).

The Staff recommends that Club Clean of Michigan City, Indiana be awarded contract 3 for custodial services in the amount of Two Million, Three Hundred Eighty-Three Thousand, Two Hundred Seventy-Eight Dollars and  $\frac{84}{100}$  (\$2,383,278.84).

These contract amounts reflect a 3-year contract with the discretion of the District to extend for another two (2) – one (1) year extensions.

The Staff is requesting that the Board grant the President the authority to issue both Notices to Proceed for custodial services at his discretion.

**RECOMMENDATION**  
**Mechanical Department**  
Passenger Communication System  
November 25, 2024

**A. SCOPE**

The Mechanical Department has requested proposals from qualified firms for a passenger communication system. This project includes upgrading the outdated cellular and Wi-Fi routers with modern and reliable technology, modifying the existing Public Address system onboard the railcars for automated announcements, implementing a passenger counting system, transmitting GPS location data for NICTD employees and the public to have the capability to view railcar/train locations, and seamlessly integrating these features into a user-friendly interface for NICTD's Passenger Communication department to automatically and/or manually trigger announcements onboard NICTD's railcars and stations, receive live and historical passenger counting data, and modify train schedules. Proposals were solicited and a private proposal opening was held virtually on October 10, 2024.

**B. ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW**

**1. Legal Notifications**

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Proposer	Eligible Bidder	Debar. Susp.	DBE	Non-Discrim.	Rest. Lobby	Drug Free	Cert. of Qual.	E-Verify	Iran Invst.	Buy Amer.
Alliance Technology Group LLC Hanover, Maryland	X	X	3%	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Clever Devices Ltd. Woodbury, New York	X	X	8%	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
ETA Transit Systems Boca Raton, Florida	X	X	0%	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Icomera US Inc. Rockville, Maryland	X	X	4%	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
SIGNET Electronic Systems, LLC Norwell, Massachusetts	X	X	10%	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

### C. STAFF REVIEW

The evaluation team was composed of eight (8) individuals that assessed the proposals on:

- i) Pricing
- ii) Project Understanding
- iii) Technical Approach
- iv) Business Organization & History

Proposer	Rank
Clever Devices Ltd.	1
SIGNET Electronic Systems, LLC	2
Icomera US Inc.	3
ETA Transit Systems	4
Alliance Technology Group LLC	5

The District held interviews with four (4) proposers to clarify the details of their proposals. As a result, Clever Devices was identified as the strongest proposer. Clever Devices had the most comprehensive and complete approach. Additional scope items were negotiated and included in the final scope of work. The District has

a contract that will encompass the entire scope of work that also includes 10 years of software support.

The independent cost estimate (ICE) for this project is \$6,552,600.00. The project cost is deemed fair and reasonable, and the total contract value will be \$6,877,812.00.

**D. RECOMMENDATION**

The Staff recommends that Clever Devices Ltd. of Woodbury, New York be awarded the contract for the passenger communication system in the amount of Six Million, Eight Hundred Seventy-Seven Thousand, Eight Hundred Twelve Dollars and <sup>00</sup>/<sub>100</sub> (\$6,877,812.00).

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