



**NORTHERN INDIANA COMMUTER TRANSPORTATION DISTRICT
BOARD MEETING**

January 27, 2025

Webinar ID: 86573363173

Passcode: 826975

Public Session – 10:30 a.m. (CST)

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Kent Abernathy
Jon Costas

Jim Arnold

Carl Baxmeyer

STAFF PARTICIPANTS

Michael Noland
Chuck Lukmann, Esq.
Amber Kettering
Gary Babcoke
Nicole Barker

Tony Siegmund
Jessie Watts, Jr.
Kelly Wenger
Melissa Jones
Derek Pflughaupt

Connie Grashel
Mike Rowe
Kristen Coslet
Justin Miranda
Christine Dearing

OTHERS PRESENT

Joe Crnkovich
Greg Price
Andy Kostielney

Steven Lyons
Carrie Noland
Andrew Steele

Timothy Whalen
Doug Ross

CALL TO ORDER

Kent Abernathy, NICTD Board Chair, called the meeting to order. Mr. Abernathy requested a roll call. Attorney Chuck Lukmann, NICTD's General Counsel, conducted the roll call. Kent Abernathy, Jim Arnold, Jim Costas, and Carl Baxmeyer were present. Board member Eddie Melton was absent.

SAFETY BRIEFING

Derek Pflughaupt, NICTD Safety Manager, conducted a safety briefing.

ELECTION OF BOARD OFFICERS

Attorney Lukmann advised that the newly appointed Department of Transportation Commissioner Kent Abernathy is, by state statute, the NICTD Board Chairperson. Attorney Lukmann requested nominations from the Board for Vice Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer. Mr. Arnold made a motion to elect Carl Baxmeyer as Vice President, Jim Arnold as Secretary, and Jon Costas as Treasurer. Mr. Baxmeyer seconded the motion and on roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

2025 BUSINESS PLAN

Mr. Noland presented the 2025 Business Plan, which includes ridership projections, the operating and maintenance budget, and NICTD's Capital Plan. Chief Financial Officer Christine Deering had circulated the plan to all members 10 days prior for their review.

An update focusing on the capital side was provided. The plan outlines expected revenues and expenses, reflecting conditions discussed throughout the year. Positive results have been observed from the Double Track project initiated in May 2024, with increased ridership and revenue. The job market trends in Chicago and nationwide are being monitored, as they impact ridership projections.

A 10% fare increase is proposed to take effect mid-year, marking the first increase since 2018, to address inflationary pressures. Public hearings are planned in four counties to discuss fare increases and gather feedback. Before implementing any changes, the NICTD team will return to the Board with feedback and a Title VI analysis to ensure our fare programs do not adversely impact any group. NICTD aims to present our recommendations and analysis to the Board in May.

The plan projects a 10% increase in revenue and addresses fiscal challenges due to declining ridership revenues. Discussions with the General Assembly are ongoing for additional state funds to sustain operations.

The Capital Plan includes service adjustments, which include reducing one early morning weekday train and adding weekend round trips. The South Bend Airport Realignment Project, a \$112 million initiative to enhance service and safety, is also highlighted, with a projection of 50% federal funding.

Capital investments focus on maintaining the railroad, upgrading power substations, and rehabilitating rail cars. The plan aims to secure state revenue, increase passenger revenue, and grow ridership, ensuring long-term operational stability.

Mr. Noland asked the board to approve the Business Plan, as presented. Mr. Costas made a motion to approve the 2025 Business Plan, Mr. Baxmeyer seconded, and on the roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.

PURCHASING (Procurement Recommendation Packet Attached)

Tony Siegmund, NICTD Purchasing Manager, presented four recommendations to the Board.

The first item was from the Track Department for Ties. This project includes purchasing twelve thousand (12,000) cross ties. Bids were solicited and a public bid opening was held virtually and in-person at the Dune Park Office on January 16, 2025.

A total of ten (10) packets were requested prior to the bid opening. The request resulted in the receipt of three (3) bids.

The Staff recommended that Missouri Tie, LLC of Bunker, Missouri be awarded the contract for ties in the amount of Nine Hundred Thirty-Four Thousand, Five Hundred Sixty Dollars and ⁰⁰/₁₀₀ (\$934,560.00).

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

Mr. Siegmund presented the second procurement item. The Track Department has requested bids for tie replacement. This project includes the replacement of 19,700 ties between Hegewisch and South Bend. Bids were solicited and a public bid opening was held virtually and in-person at the Dune Park Office on January 16, 2025.

A total of twelve (12) packets were requested prior to the bid opening. The request resulted in the receipt of three (3) bids.

The Staff recommended that Diversified Track Works LLC of Geneseo, Illinois be awarded the contract for tie replacement in the amount of One Million, Twenty-Nine Thousand, Nine Hundred Eighty-Five Dollars and ⁰⁰/₁₀₀ (\$1,029,985.00).

The Staff is requested that the Board grant the President the authority to issue the Notice to Proceed for tie replacement at his discretion.

Mr. Costas 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. Baxmeyer and, on a roll call vote, passed unanimously.

Mr. Siegmund presented the third procurement item. The Mechanical Department requests the procurement of draft gears produced by Wabtec Passenger Transit Division. The District determined that identified units are beyond repair, and it is more cost effective to replace these 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 eighty-two 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.

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 requested 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. Baxmeyer made a motion to grant authority to the NICTD President to issue a Notice to Proceed for draft gears, 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, Double Track Change Order 18. The District executed contract 95603 for Double Track Project One with Walsh-Herzog Joint Venture on December 21, 2021, for a not to exceed cost of \$375,519,909.30. To keep the project moving forward, the District has approved seventeen change orders, totaling \$6,509,717.66. Since this approval, the project team has sought additional scope items as further described below. Change order eighteen authorizes an additional \$1,505,405.30. The updated total contract price is \$383,535,032.26.

The District is notifying the Board that the President has approved change order eighteen to contract 95603 in the amount of One Million, Five Hundred Five Thousand, Four Hundred Five Dollars and ³⁰/₁₀₀ (\$1,504,405.30), with RDA and IFA approval.

Mr. Abernathy made a motion to ratify that NICTD President has approved Double Track Change Order 18, at his discretion. The motion was seconded by Mr. Baxmeyer, and, upon a roll call vote, passed unanimously.

TRANSIT ASSET MANAGEMENT (TAM) PLAN

NICTD Grant Administrator, Kelly Wenger, presented the TAM Plan for approval to the NICTD Board.

The plan is updated by the board every three years, with an annual summary provided. The TAM plan, required by the FTA since 2018, sets guidelines and goals for maintaining

the railroad's assets in a state of good repair. It includes both federal and non-federal assets and helps in setting the capital plan.

The TAM plan requires annual inspections of all buildings and bridges, even though federal requirements mandate inspections every four years. Buildings are rated on a scale of one to five. The plan ensures that if any asset falls out of a state of good repair, capital funding is redirected to address the issue.

In 2024, the goals set last January were largely met, except for the rolling stock goal, which was affected by delays in receiving leased cars from Metra. The target for 2025 accounts for these delays. The infrastructure goal was adjusted due to the Double Track construction, which had a significant impact on the plan.

Questions were invited, and the scale for building inspections was explained. Inspections are conducted annually, and buildings are rated on a scale of one to five. Proof of these ratings is required annually via email.

Mr. Baxmeyer made a motion to approve the 2025 Tam Plan. The motion was seconded by Mr. Costas, and, upon a roll call vote, passed unanimously.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Noland welcomed the new Chairman and acknowledged the contributions of the predecessor, Chairman Smith. Mr. Noland highlighted the continuous history of the railroad since 1908.

Double Track NWI and West Lake Corridor Project Updates

The Double Track project is nearing completion, with most contracts closed except for one in Michigan City. The project includes a station and a parking structure, with 437 spaces dedicated to railroad use. The structure is expected to be completed by March or April 2025. Michigan City provided additional street parking to ensure sufficient spaces during construction. The historic facade of the original South Shore station is being restored as part of the project.

The West Lake project, a \$950 million extension of the South Shore line, is over 90% complete. The goal is to open the service by May, but winter weather and construction challenges may delay this. The project includes completing an underpass, parking lot, and connections to Main Street and Sheffield in Munster. The signal system, overhead catenary system, and traction power substations also need to be finished. Significant training and testing are required before opening the new line segment. The plan includes adding twelve trains a day, with six in the morning and six in the evening, providing one-seat rides from Munster Dyer to Chicago, along with additional shuttle services between Munster/Dyer and Hammond Gateway.

NICTD is coordinating with the contractor to ensure the schedule remains reasonable.

South Bend Realignment & Airport Agreement

Mr. Noland reported on the South Bend Station realignment. There is six million dollars of local funding committed to the project. NICTD is hosting an open house in South Bend to discuss the project. The project stands at about 60-70% through the engineering phase and NICTD is applying for federal grants to fund construction.

Metra Track 4 Project

This year NICTD is adding twenty-six new trains a day to the Metra system. This required an investment for track, signal and platform work to expand infrastructure in Chicago to ensure the additional service does not impair current operations. The project is on schedule and budget, with about a year and a half of construction remaining.

ADVERTISING AND MARKETING REPORT

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

Ms. Barker highlighted several exciting developments. With warmer weather and longer days, NICTD is gearing up for events like the Auto Show at McCormick Place and the annual St. Patrick's Day festivities, which are expected to boost ridership. The marketing team is also refreshing the timetable's look and branding, encouraging people to "rediscover the ride" to Chicago and local events.

New vendor spaces are being introduced at various stations, with Clutch Bagels opening at Miller Station and additional vendors coming to Hegewisch and Hammond. This initiative aims to enhance passenger experience and safety.

Recent promotions, such as the "Kids Ride Free" program over New Year's, were successful, and upcoming events like the Cubs Convention and the Comic and Entertainment Expo (C2E2) are expected to attract more riders.

TICKET SALES, RIDERSHIP AND OPERATIONS REPORT

Kelly Wenger, Grant Administrator, presented the Ticket Sales and Ridership reports, as well as the On-Time Performance report.

Ticket sales for 2024 show a positive trend, with significant increases in single-ride ticket sales, reflecting strong weekend ridership. The Bikes on Trains program, now year-round, continues to increase in popularity, with many riders taking advantage of the expanded access.

There will be an upcoming 20-Year Strategic Plan update. This intensive process will involve public notices and feedback from various stakeholders across the service area, ensuring comprehensive input for future planning.

Mr. Anthony Hall, Chief Operations Officer, commended the team for their efforts during challenging weather conditions, ensuring smooth operations despite the cold temperatures.

During the recent cold weather, the team held conference calls throughout the weekend to ensure smooth operations. Despite the challenging conditions, the Transportation Department maintained the schedule with only minor adjustments. Darryl, Joe, Nicole and Connie provided courtesy coffee at various stations, displaying outstanding teamwork.

In December, there was a slight decrease in performance due to four days of busing for extended construction on Metra property. However, the team recovered well, delivering one of the best performances of the year during the holidays.

A new schedule will be implemented next month, with over forty adjustments based on customer feedback. This follows the initial double track service schedule introduced in May and adjusted in August. The goal is to improve on-time performance, which has already shown significant improvement since the initial dip in May.

The industry standard for on-time performance in commuter rail is within 5 minutes and 59 seconds of the scheduled time. The team aims to achieve a 90% on-time performance, with the new schedule expected to help reach this goal.

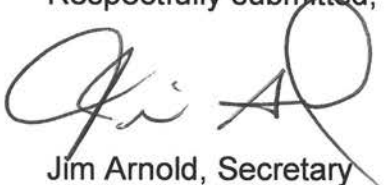
OTHER BUSINESS

None

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Baxmeyer made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Costas, and on the roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously. The next board meeting is scheduled for March 31, 2025.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Arnold", written over a printed name.

Jim Arnold, Secretary



PROCUREMENT RECOMMENDATIONS
January 27, 2025

Track Department:

Bid:

- Ties
- Tie Replacement

Mechanical Department:

Sole Source:

- Draft Gears

Double Track:

Sole Source:

- Project One – Change Order 18

Recommendation
Track Department - Ties
January 27, 2025

A. SCOPE

The Track Department has requested bids for ties. This project includes purchasing twelve thousand (12,000) cross ties. Bids were solicited and a public bid opening was held virtually and in-person at the Dune Park Office on January 16, 2025.

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 ten (10) 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.	DBE %	Non-Discrim.	Rest. Lobby	Drug Free	Cert. of Qual.	E-Verify	Iran Invst.	Buy Amer.
Missouri Tie LLC Bunker, Missouri	X	X	10%	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Intelligent Polymer Solutions Chardon, Ohio	X	X	60%	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

Stella-Jones Corporation Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania	X	X	14%	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
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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 ties is Missouri Tie, LLC, with a bid of \$934,560.00. This is 14% (\$157,440.00) less than the engineer’s estimate of \$1,092,000.00.

Missouri Tie, LLC’s DBE amount is 10% (\$94,560.00).

Company	Unit Cost	Total Cost
Missouri Tie, LLC	\$77.88	\$934,560.00
Intelligent Polymer Solutions	\$93.95	\$1,127,400.00
Stella-Jones Corporation	\$103.10	\$1,237,200.00

D. DELIVERY

Missouri Tie, LLC can meet the District’s delivery schedule for April 2025.

E. RECOMMENDATION

The Staff recommends that Missouri Tie, LLC of Bunker, Missouri be awarded the contract for ties in the amount of Nine Hundred Thirty-Four Thousand, Five Hundred Sixty Dollars and ⁰⁰/₁₀₀ (\$934,560.00).

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

Recommendation
Track Department - Tie Replacement
January 27, 2025

A. SCOPE

The Track Department has requested bids for tie replacement. This project includes the replacement of 19,700 ties between Hegewisch and South Bend. Bids were solicited and a public bid opening was held virtually and in-person at the Dune Park Office on January 16, 2025.

B. ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW

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A total of twelve (12) packets were requested prior to the bid opening. The request resulted in the receipt of three (3) bids.

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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.	DBE %	Non-Discrim	Rest. Lobby	Drug Free	Cert. of Qual.	E-Verify	Iran Invst	Buy Amer	BA BA	Form 96
Diversified Track Works LLC Geneseo, Illinois	X	X	100%	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Frontier Railroad Services LLC New Stanton, PA	X	X	10%	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
RailWorks Track Services, LLC Chicago, Illinois	X	X	10%	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 tie replacement is Diversified Track Works LLC, with a bid of \$1,029,985.00. This is 6% (\$70,015.00) less than the engineer's estimate of \$1,100,000.00.

Diversified Track Works LLC's DBE amount is 100% (\$1,029,985.00).

Company	Total Cost
Diversified Track Works LLC	\$1,029,985.00
Frontier Railroad Services LLC	\$1,632,850.00
RailWorks Track Services, LLC	\$2,999,200.00

D. DELIVERY

Diversified Track Works LLC can meet the District's construction schedule for April through June 2025.

E. RECOMMENDATION

The Staff recommends that Diversified Track Works LLC of Geneseo, Illinois be awarded the contract for tie replacement in the amount of One Million, Twenty-Nine Thousand, Nine Hundred Eighty-Five Dollars and ⁰⁰/₁₀₀ (\$1,029,985.00).

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

Recommendation
Mechanical Department - Draft Gears
January 27, 2025

RECOMMENDATION:

The Mechanical Department requests the procurement of draft gears produced by Wabtec Passenger Transit Division. The District has determined that identified units are beyond repair, and it is more cost effective to replace these 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 eighty-two 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
Double Track Project One - Change Order 18
January 27, 2025

RECOMMENDATION:

The District executed contract 95603 for Double Track Project One with Walsh-Herzog Joint Venture on December 21, 2021, for a not to exceed cost of \$375,519,909.30. To keep the project moving forward, the District has approved seventeen change orders, totaling \$6,509,717.66. Since this approval, the project team has sought additional scope items as further described below. Change order eighteen authorizes an additional \$1,505,405.30. The updated total contract price is \$383,535,032.26.

Change Description	Amount
PCO - 221: OCS Modifications Revisions #29-62	\$0.00
PCO - 310: OCS Modifications- Revision 88	\$0.00
PCO - 327: OCS Modifications- Revision 97	\$0.00
PCO - 339: OCS Modifications- Revision 105	\$0.00
PCO - 356: Shell Pile Quantities - BRG 47.321, 54.621 and 54.731	\$0.00
PCO - 364: Unused Environmental Allowance	\$0.00
PCO - 365: Unused Unsuitable Soils Unit Cost - PCO 138	\$0.00
PCO - 366: Unused Quantity of 19.5' Rail Plugs & Bond Credits - PCO 215 & PCO 267	\$0.00
PCO - 376: Pushbutton Cut-Outs	\$0.00
PCO - 379: OCS RFI Changes and Pole Removals (RFI- 1121,1123,1129,1140,1141,1152)	\$0.00
PCO - 404: NIPSCO Unit Price Quantities Adjustment	\$0.00
PCO - 405: Ogden Dunes RRFB Changes & Removal of Temp. Shelters, Barrier wall, MOT, ADA Parking Stalls	\$0.00
PCO - 406: Crossing time outs for 7th Ave, Taylor Rd, Tennessee St, Ohio St	\$0.00
PCO - 407: Removal of Existing ETAO3 Speed/ROW Signs	\$0.00

PCO - 408: Michigan City - Additional Roadway Channelizers	\$0.00
PCO - 411: Contractor Damages for Failure to Meet Substantial Completion	\$0.00
PCO - 412: 410 E 11th St Driveway Approach & Drainage Swale E of Sheridan Ave	\$0.00
PCO - 413: ETAO3 Permanent ROW Signage	\$0.00
PCO - 414: Hillcrest Road Lane Markings & Parking Signage for Ogden Dunes and Miller	\$0.00
PCO - 415: Reverse Switch Cut Out Circuit - Mineral Springs	\$0.00
PCO - 416: Credit for Asphalt Placement at Kemil Road (NCR-65)	\$0.00
PCO - 417: Contract Signal/GCW Spare Parts - RFI 1183	\$0.00
PCO - 418: Delineators at Miller East and West Parking lots	\$0.00
PCO - 419: Credit For Unused Signage Allowance	\$0.00
PCO - 420: Credit for WDPI-2428	\$0.00
PCO - 421: OCS Borrowed Material	\$0.00
PCO - 422: Amtrak Interlocking Remaining Work	\$0.00
PCO - 423: Sheridan Ave Retention Changes	\$0.00
NACR 55- CSS Flagging	\$0.00
NACR 80 - Wire Quantity	\$0.00
NACR 97 – OCS RFI's	\$0.00
PCO 424: Agreement dated 10/17/2024- resolve and release of all outstanding claims & waive LD's	\$1,505,405.30
CHANGE ORDER 18 TOTAL:	\$1,505,405.30

The District is notifying the Board that the President has approved change order eighteen to contract 95603 in the amount of One Million, Five Hundred Five Thousand, Four Hundred Five Dollars and ³⁰/₁₀₀ (\$1,504,405.30), with RDA and IFA approval.

