



**NORTHERN INDIANA COMMUTER TRANSPORTATION DISTRICT  
BOARD MEETING  
November 24, 2025  
Webinar ID: 86573363173  
Passcode: 826975  
Public Session – 10:30 a.m. (CST)**

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**

Lyndsay Quist  
Jon Costas

Jim Arnold

Carl Baxmeyer

**STAFF PARTICIPANTS**

Michael Noland  
Chuck Lukmann, Esq.  
Amber Kettring  
Gary Babcock  
Nicole Barker  
Darrell Riddell  
Mark Fleming

Tony Siegmund  
Jessie Watts, Jr.  
Kelly Wenger  
Melissa Jones  
Christine Dearing  
Joseph Cieniawski

Connie Grashel  
Mike Rowe  
Kristen Coslet  
Justin Miranda  
Sara Krga  
Kevin Dwyan

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Joe Crnkovich  
Andy Kostielney  
Gary R. Clark  
Tim Harris  
Terry O'Brien  
Bill Schalliol

Steven Lyons  
Jim Nowacki  
Hodge Patel  
Carrie Noland  
Mindy Smith  
Eric Neagu

Greg Price  
Doug Ross  
Timothy Whalen  
Molly Delaney  
Kevin Porter

## **CALL TO ORDER**

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

## **SAFETY BRIEFING**

Kristen Coslet, NICTD Director of Safety & Rules, conducted a safety briefing.

## **BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

Ms. Lyndsay Quist, board chair, requested a motion to approve the Board Meeting Minutes of November 24, 2025. Mr. Costas made a motion to approve the board meeting minutes; Mr. Baxmeyer seconded, and on roll call, the motion passed unanimously.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

## **DBE Program Update**

Kelly Wenger, Director of Strategic Planning & Grants, reported that the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) issued new Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) regulations on October 3, 2025, that became effective immediately and included no public comment period. States must revise their certification processes, resulting in non-uniform requirements. As a result, Indiana currently has no certified DBE firms, and NICTD may only use Indiana-certified DBEs. Therefore, no DBE participation is expected on new contracts. Contract-specific DBE goals have been removed from current NICTD procurements. Existing contracts will continue under their original goals, and staff will monitor certification updates.

## **PURCHASING (Procurement Recommendation Packet Attached)**

Tony Siegmund, Director of Procurement, presented three recommendations to the Board.

The first item was for the End Life Mechanical Department for seat cushions. The End Life Mechanical Department requested bids for seat cushions. This project includes cushions and shrouds/plastics for the rehabilitation of seventeen (17) train cars. Bids were solicited and a public bid opening was held virtually and in-person at the Dune Park Office on Thursday, November 13, 2025.

A total of nine (9) packets were requested prior to the bid opening. The request resulted in the receipt of four (4) bids.

The Staff requested that the Board grant the President the authority to issue the Notice to Proceed for consulting and investment advisory services at his discretion.

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

Mr. Siegmund presented the second procurement for a sole source item for the Double Track-11<sup>th</sup> Street Parking Garage – Change Order 2.

The District executed contract 99239 for the completion of the 11<sup>th</sup> Street parking structure with the City of Michigan City on October 4, 2021, who then subcontracted the project with MCFC, LLC on March 31, 2022, for a not to exceed amount of \$16,000,000.00. To keep the project moving forward, one change order has been approved by the District totaling \$614.25. Change Order 2 authorizes an additional \$164,844.77 toward the contract price. This change order request is necessary to account for additional modifications and security cameras that were requested by NICTD. The updated total contract amount would be \$16,165,459.01.

The District requested the Board grant the President the authority to approve Change Order 2 to contract 99239 in the amount of One Hundred Sixty-Four Thousand, Eight Hundred Forty-Four Dollars and 77/100 (\$164,844.77).

Mr. Costas made a motion to grant authority to the NICTD President to issue a Notice to Proceed for Change Order 2 to contract 99239, at his discretion. The motion was seconded by Baxmeyer and, on a roll call vote, passed unanimously.

Mr. Siegmund presented the third sole source procurement item, West Lake Program Management, Amendment 19.

The District had executed contract 88823 for West Lake Phase II program management services with HDR Engineering, Inc. on December 12, 2018, for a not-to-exceed amount of \$11,000,000.00. To keep the project moving forward, eighteen amendments had been approved by the District totaling \$5,746,901.22. Amendment 19 authorized an additional \$872,664.07 toward the contract price. This amendment was necessary to continue providing uninterrupted program management and related support services through December 2026, assuming a Revenue Service Date (RSD) of March 2026. An additional amendment request would be required for services beyond 2026, including the After Study. The updated total contract amount was \$17,619,565.29.

The District requested the Board grant the President the authority to approve amendment 19 to contract 88823 in the amount of Eight Hundred Seventy-Two Thousand, Six Hundred Sixty-Four Dollars and 07/100 (\$872,664.07), pending RDA and IFA approval.

Mr. Arnold made a motion to grant authority to the NICTD President to issue a Notice to Proceed for the West Lake Program Management, Amendment 19, at his discretion. The motion was seconded by Mr. Costas, and, upon a roll call vote, passed unanimously.

### **Resolutions**

The Board considered two resolutions: one honoring former General Counsel Michael C. Harris and another related to the South Bend Airport Relocation Project's local funding share. Counsel Lukmann presented the resolutions to the Board.

#### **Resolution 25-05**

#### **A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE NORTHERN INDIANA COMMUTER TRANSPORTATION DISTRICT COMMITTING TO PARTICIPATE IN LOCAL SHARE OF SOUTH BEND REALIGNMENT PROJECT**

Resolution 25-05 concerns the District's commitment to the South Bend Realignment Project. The resolution outlines the longstanding partnership with the City of South Bend and St. Joseph County, notes prior local contributions to major capital projects, and affirms that the Realignment Project is included in the District's long-range strategic plan.

Staff reported that state, local, regional, and private-sector partners have pledged or intend to pledge up to \$56 million toward the required local share. In support of the project and its regional benefits, the District will increase its contribution from \$6 million to \$8 million.

The resolution further reaffirms the District's commitment to continue providing commuter rail passenger service to the South Bend/St. Joseph County community for at least 20 years following the final funding contribution.

Mr. Costas made a motion to accept Resolution 25-05 committing to participate in local share of South Bend Realignment Project, seconded by Mr. Baxmeyer, and on roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.

#### **Resolution 25-06**

#### **A RESOLUTION IN APPRECIATION OF MICHAEL C. HARRIS**

Mr. Lukmann presented Resolution 25-06 honoring Michael C. Harris for his long-standing service as the District's General Counsel and his significant contributions during and after the formation of NICTD. Members of Mr. Harris's family were present.

Mr. Arnold made a motion to accept Resolution 25-06 authorizing honoring Michael C. Harris, seconded by Mr. Baxmeyer, and on roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

### **Double Track NWI**

President Noland reported that the Double Track project is nearing completion, with only a few minor closeout items remaining. The District is preparing to close out the FTA grant and is finalizing the FTA-required "After Study." Physical work is complete, and the final report is expected by the end of the year.

### **West Lake Corridor Project**

President Noland reported that completion of the West Lake Corridor Project was delayed due to issues with stray current insulation and damage discovered on three of four power transformers. Stray current mitigation is now complete, and a plan is in place to replace the damaged transformers while using a spare unit for testing and commissioning. Signal, Positive Train Control (PTC), and communications systems still require activation. Based on current progress, revenue service is projected for mid- to late-March, pending successful system testing and verification of safe, reliable operations.

### **South Bend Airport Realignment**

President Noland reported one last remaining step in the South Bend Airport Realignment Project is the submission of the federal grant application. Once submitted, the project will proceed to bidding and transition from planning to construction. No additional updates were reported.

### **Metra Track 4 Project**

President Noland reported that the Metra Track 4 capacity-expansion project is progressing well. The multi-year project has required several weekend outages and additional staffing, but it remains on schedule with approximately one year remaining. The improvements will support future express-service potential and travel-time reductions once Metra completes bi-directional signaling. The project appears to be tracking within budget based on current force-account monitoring.

## **NEW CARLISLE FINAL SITE**

Nicole Barker, Director of Capital Investment & Implementation, introduced the Antero Group project team members who presented an update on the New Carlisle station site evaluation.

The recommended site (Site B), previously outlined to the Board, has been approved by the New Carlisle Town Council and reviewed with the St. Joseph County Redevelopment Commission. Ridership estimates and the site plan have been updated, and Site B was identified as the preferred location based on proximity to downtown, potential pedestrian access, reduced impacts, and majority county ownership.

The Board was asked to vote in support of selecting Site B as the recommended location for the New Carlisle station.

Mr. Baxmeyer made a motion to ratify selection of Site B, as the recommended site selection in New Carlisle, seconded by Mr. Arnold and on roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.

## **ADVERTISING AND MARKETING REPORT**

Ms. Barker presented the Advertising and Marketing Report.

Ms. Barker reported strong participation in the Veterans Ride Free program and highlighted ongoing holiday promotions encouraging travel to Chicago and regional events.

New customer-service reminder signage is being introduced on trains regarding timely arrival and noise courtesy. The Bikes on Trains program has been updated with a simplified rack card and QR code access to trail information. The Monon project webpage and schedule have been released to assist passengers with upcoming service changes.

Recent special-event ridership, including the Chicago Marathon and Mag Mile Lights Festival, were noted, along with upcoming promotions and holiday schedule reminders.

## **TICKET SALES, RIDERSHIP AND OPERATIONS REPORT**

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

Ms. Wenger reported continued strength in ticket sales and ridership through 2025. July marked the start of the fare increase and the end of the buy-one-get-one monthly promotion, which is reflected in the year's revenue trends.

Summer one-way ticket sales were strong due to discretionary travel and events such as Lollapalooza. Monthly ticket usage remained higher than expected following the fare

change, indicating increased return-to-office travel. Overall ridership shows solid year-over-year growth.

She stated that the Bikes on Trains program continues to perform exceptionally well, with ridership approaching double-digit growth. The transition to two bike slots per railcar has improved loading efficiency and supported sustained year-round use.

Sara Krga, Assistant Chief Transportation Officer, presented the operations report, highlighting recent activity and performance metrics.

Ms. Krga reported a decline in November on-time performance due to leaf season conditions and speed restrictions placed on single-level cars. Measures implemented to reduce wheel slips and slides—including revised braking procedures, engineer job aids, ride-alongs, improved track cleaning, and use of a newly developed rail-cleaning brush—have significantly reduced wheel damage compared to last year. Despite some delays, recovery times have improved.

Staff will evaluate additional strategies for next year, including potential schedule adjustments and capital investments in rail-cleaning technology.

## **2026 MEETING DATES**

President Noland presented the proposed meeting calendar for 2026, which follows the traditional last-Monday schedule.

Mr. Arnold made a motion to approve the proposed 2026 meeting dates, seconded by Mr. Costas, and on roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

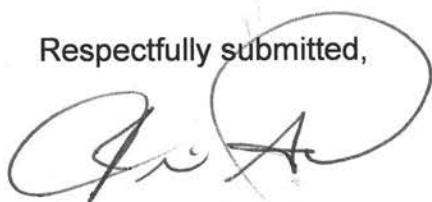
President Noland announced his intention to retire in early 2026 after 11 years with the District. He noted the completion of major capital projects and expressed appreciation for the Board, staff, and workforce. A leadership search will begin to identify his successor.

Board members expressed their gratitude for his exceptional leadership, communication, and contributions to the railroad and region.

## **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 January 26, 2026.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Arnold", enclosed within a simple circle.

Jim Arnold, Secretary



## PROCUREMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

November 24, 2025

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### **End Life – Mechanical Department:**

#### **Bid:**

- **Seat Cushions**

### **Double Track:**

#### **Sole Source:**

- **11<sup>th</sup> Street Parking Garage – Change Order 2**

### **West Lake:**

#### **Sole Source:**

- **Program Management – Amendment 19**

**RECOMMENDATION**  
**End Life – Mechanical Department**  
**Seat Cushions**  
November 24, 2025

## A. SCOPE

The End Life – Mechanical Department has requested bids for seat cushions. This project includes cushions and shrouds/plastics for the rehabilitation of seventeen (17) train cars. Bids were solicited and a public bid opening was held virtually and in-person at the Dune Park Office on Thursday, November 13, 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  
Gary Crusader - Gary, Indiana  
The Times - Hammond, Indiana  
NICTD Plan Room

## 2. Bid Review

A total of nine (9) packets were requested prior to the bid opening. The request resulted in the receipt of four (4) 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 two 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). The other two firms did not complete all necessary forms and were deemed unresponsive.

Bidder	Eligible Bidder	Debar. Susp.	Non-Discrim	Rest. Lobby	Drug Free	Cert. of Qual.	E-Verify	Iran Invst	Data Form	Buy Amer
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Fellfab Corporation Atlanta, GA	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
KSU N.A., LLC Bellwood, IL	X	X	X	X	X	X	-	X	X	X	
Railway Products Group Baltimore, MD	-	-	-	-	X	X	-	-	-	X	
Sedia, Inc. Glendale, WI	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

### C. ENGINEERING REVIEW & PRICE ANALYSIS

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

The lowest responsive and responsible bid for seat cushions is Sedia, Inc., with a bid of \$1,567,606.47. This is 13.56% (\$245,854.50) less than the engineer's estimate of \$1,813,460.97.

Company	Cushions	Shrouds	Total
Sedia, Inc.	\$1,121,182.47	\$446,424.00	\$1,567,606.47
Fellfab Corporation	\$1,423,251.54	\$524,912.86	\$1,948,164.40
KSU N.A., LLC	\$3,562,283.58	\$1,727,387.14	\$5,289,670.72
Railway Products Group	\$7,228,602.83	\$2,721,652.89	\$9,950,235.72

### D. DELIVERY

Sedia, Inc. can meet the District's delivery schedule for 2027 and 2028.

### E. RECOMMENDATION

The Staff recommends that Sedia, Inc. of Glendale, Wisconsin be awarded the contract for seat cushions in the amount of One Million, Five Hundred Sixty-Seven Thousand, Six Hundred Six Dollars and  $47/100$  (\$1,567,606.47).

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

**RECOMMENDATION**  
**Double Track - 11<sup>th</sup> Street Parking Garage**  
**Change Order 2**  
**November 24, 2025**

The District executed contract 99239 for the completion of the 11<sup>th</sup> Street parking structure with the City of Michigan City on October 4, 2021, who then subcontracted the project with MCFC, LLC on March 31, 2022, for a not to exceed amount of \$16,000,000.00. To keep the project moving forward, one change order has been approved by the District totaling \$614.25. Change Order 2 authorizes an additional \$164,844.77 toward the contract price. This change order request is necessary to account for additional modifications and security cameras that were requested by NICTD. The updated total contract amount would be \$16,165,459.01.

	<b>Date</b>	<b>Amendment Description</b>	<b>Cost</b>
<b>1</b>	2024.06.14	Bathroom Hardware Change	\$614.25
<b>2</b>	Pending	Additional Building Modifications	\$164,844.77

The District is requesting the Board grant the President the authority to approve change order 2 to contract 99239 in the amount of One Hundred Sixty-Four Thousand, Eight Hundred Forty-Four Dollars and 77/100 (\$164,844.77).

**RECOMMENDATION**  
**West Lake Program Management**  
**Change Order 19**  
**November 24, 2025**

The District executed contract 88823 for West Lake Phase II program management services with HDR Engineering, Inc. on December 12, 2018, for a not to exceed amount of \$11,000,000.00. To keep the project moving forward, eighteen amendments have been approved by the District totaling \$5,746,901.22. Amendment 19 authorizes an additional \$872,664.07 toward the contract price. This amendment is necessary to continue providing uninterrupted program management and related support services through December 2026, assuming a Revenue Service Date (RSD) of March 2026. An additional amendment request will be required for services beyond 2026, including the After Study. The updated total contract amount would be \$17,619,565.29.

	<b>Date</b>	<b>Amendment Description</b>	<b>Cost</b>
<b>1</b>	2019.10.25	E-Builder Software	\$364,472.00
<b>2</b>	2019.10.29	Reallocation of funds	No Cost
<b>3</b>	2020.02.05	Add Fixed-Fee Language & Section 4.1.4	No Cost
<b>4</b>	2020.06.19	Additional Scope of Work	\$347,464.56
<b>5</b>	2020.07.13	Additional Scope of Work	\$68,526.00
<b>6</b>	2020.07.31	Move Scope of Work and E-Builder Funds to KFA	No Cost
<b>7</b>	2021.01.12	Additional E-Builder Licenses and On-Call Support	\$68,492.11
<b>8</b>	2021.02.17	Reflection of Revised Hourly Rates	No Cost
<b>9</b>	2021.10.11	Reallocation of Funds from HDR to ASE	No Cost
<b>10</b>	2022.02.07	Additional Out of Scope Services	\$1,927,305.00
<b>11</b>	2023.02.02	Out of Scope Services for Burns Engineering	\$378,465.52
<b>12</b>	2023.02.03	OOS Services for Betterments & Environmental	\$105,475.80
<b>13</b>	2023.04.24	E-Builder License Renewal – 4 years	\$9,728.60
<b>14</b>	2023.07.27	Additional Out of Scope Services and Contingency	\$1,518,384.32
<b>15</b>	2023.10.06	On-Board Passenger Survey	No Cost
<b>16</b>	2025.04.03	Out of Scope Services and eBuilder Licenses	\$155,978.20
<b>17</b>	2025.05.27	NEPA re-evaluation and Djuric Trucking	\$23,261.36
<b>18</b>	2025.81.21	Extension of services, eBuilder licenses, & Synnov	\$779,347.75
<b>19</b>	Pending	Extension of services through 2026	\$872,664.07

The District is requesting the Board grant the President the authority to approve amendment 19 to contract 88823 in the amount of Eight Hundred Seventy-Two Thousand, Six Hundred Sixty-Four Dollars and  $\frac{07}{100}$  (\$872,664.07), pending RDA and IFA approval.

