



**NORTHERN INDIANA COMMUTER TRANSPORTATION DISTRICT
BOARD MEETING**

May 18, 2026

Webinar ID: 86573363173

Passcode: 826975

Public Session – 10:30 a.m. (CST)

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Jim Arnold

Eddie Melton

Jon Costas

STAFF PARTICIPANTS

David Dech
Chuck Lukmann, Esq.
Anthony Hall
Kevin Dywan
Joseph Cieniawski
Amber Kettring

Tony Siegmund
Jessie Watts, Jr.
Kelly Wenger
Justin Miranda
Gary Babcoke
Nathan Pawloski

Connie Grashel
Nicole Barker
Kristen Coslet
Christine Dearing
Melissa Jones

OTHERS PRESENT

Steven Lyons
Doug Ross
Timothy Whalen

Jim Nowacki
Kevin Bollinger
Greg Price

Dan Flaherty
Vincent Kaczmar
Andrew Steele

CALL TO ORDER

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

SAFETY BRIEFING

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

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Mr. Melton requested a motion to approve the Board Meeting Minutes of March 30, 2026. Mr. Costas made a motion to approve the board meeting minutes; Mr. Arnold seconded, and on roll call, the motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Vincent Kaczmar commented that the new train schedule is confusing and suggested reorganizing it to more clearly distinguish northbound and southbound service for easier passenger use. He also suggested that a future rail connection to a potential Bears stadium in Indiana could increase ridership and reduce traffic and parking demand.

Mr. Jim Nowacki commented on the CTA Red Line Extension project and the lack of South Shore Line stations between Hegewisch and Hyde Park. He expressed support for a connection between the Red Line Extension and the South Shore Line to improve service and accessibility for underserved areas on Chicago's South Side.

PURCHASING (Procurement Recommendation Packet Attached)

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

The first item was for the IT Department for PTC Level 3 Support. The IT Department has requested proposals from qualified firms to select an appropriate Level 3 support team for the Positive Train Control (PTC) Program. Proposals were solicited and a private proposal opening was held at the Dune Park Office on April 22, 2026.

A total of five (5) packets were requested prior to the proposal opening. The request resulted in the receipt of two (2) proposals.

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).

The Staff recommended that DG Strategies LLC of Rockwall, Texas be awarded the Contract for PTC Level 3 Support in the amount of Two Million Dollars (\$2,000,000.00). 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 annual expenditure on this service is anticipated not to exceed \$400,000.

The Staff requested that the Board grant the President the authority to issue the Notice to Proceed for PTC Level 3 Support at his discretion.

Mr. Costas made a motion to grant authority to the NICTD President to issue a Notice to Proceed with the contract for PTC Level 3 Support, at his discretion. The motion was seconded by Mr. Arnold and, on a roll call vote, passed unanimously.

Mr. Siegmund presented the second procurement item from the Mechanical Department for Auxiliary Power Supply Units. The Mechanical Department requested the procurement of auxiliary power supply (APS) units produced by Wabtec Corporation. The District has determined that

additional APS units are needed due to the increased number of cars that have been added to NICTD's fleet. The APS units are required components for NICTD's railcars. Without these required parts, NICTD's railcars would be held out of service.

Wabtec APS units are currently installed on 14 of NICTD's 300 Series commuter cars, as well as 26 of the leased cars from Metra. This is a sole source procurement due to quality, previous experience, and the proprietary nature of these parts. Wabtec is the OEM and the manufacturer authorized to build these components.

The District has reviewed the proposed pricing by Wabtec Corporation and has determined this pricing to be fair and reasonable based on previous orders of APS units.

The Staff requested the Board grant the President the authority to enter into a contract for an amount of Three Million, One Hundred Thirty-Two Thousand, Three Hundred Sixty Dollars and ⁰⁰/₁₀₀ (\$3,132,360.00) with Wabtec Corporation of Duncan, South Carolina for auxiliary power supply units.

Mr. Costas made a motion to grant authority to the NICTD President proceed with the contract for purchase of APS units from Wabtec Corporation, at his discretion. The motion was seconded by Mr. Arnold and, on a roll call vote, passed unanimously.

Mr. Siegmund presented the third procurement item from West Lake Design-Build, requesting approval for Change Order 23. 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 twenty-two change orders totaling \$32,141,118.74. Change order twenty-three authorizes an additional \$762,114.98. The updated total contract price would be \$587,843,754.72.

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 requested the Board grant the President the authority to approve change order twenty-three to contract 94028 in the amount of Seven Hundred Sixty-Two Thousand, One Hundred Fourteen Dollars and ⁹⁸/₁₀₀ (\$762,114.98), pending RDA and IFA approval.

Mr. Costas made a motion to grant authority to the NICTD President to approve West Lake Design Build, Change Order 23, at his discretion. The motion was seconded by Mr. Arnold and, on a roll call vote, passed unanimously.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Double Track

President Dech reported that the Double Track Project is substantially complete, with only remaining property-related matters in Michigan City still being addressed.

Monon Corridor

President Dech reported that NICTD held a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Monon Corridor and participated in the City of Hammond's ribbon cutting for the Downtown Hammond Station. NICTD

also celebrated completion of the End Life railcar rehabilitation program. All four traction power substations are now operational, work continues on signal and track improvements, efforts toward project closeout and settlement continue, and the contractor is addressing the remaining punch-list items.

Metra Track 4 Project

An update was provided on construction progress and recent service impacts. Two scheduled service outages requiring bus bridge operations were completed successfully, with one additional outage planned. Project completion is anticipated in early 2027 and will include bi-directional signaling improvements.

South Bend Airport Realignment Project

NICTD is pursuing multiple federal grant opportunities for the project and is actively preparing applications and seeking letters of support. Staff continue to coordinate with federal and state officials regarding project funding and advancement.

ADVERTISING AND MARKETING REPORT

Amber Kettring, Manager of Customer Service and Communications, reported that the historic replica sign was installed at 11th Street Station in Michigan City. She also highlighted ongoing marketing efforts, including a partnership with Save the Dunes to promote travel to Northwest Indiana attractions and targeted outreach in Munster, Hammond, and Dyer to increase awareness of the Monon Corridor.

Ms. Kettring noted a World Public Transit Day social media contest that awarded round-trip tickets to participating riders. She also reported on promotional efforts tied to recent and upcoming special events, including C2E2, Soldier Field concerts, Pokémon GO Fest, the Obama Presidential Center opening, and major conventions at McCormick Place, all aimed at supporting ridership growth.

TICKET SALES, RIDERSHIP AND OPERATIONS REPORT

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

Ms. Wenger reported continued growth in both ridership and revenue compared to the previous year, driven in part by the opening of the Monon Corridor and strong discretionary travel demand. Ridership associated with special events and commuter travel also remained strong.

Ms. Wenger noted that Monon Corridor ridership and revenue are performing in line with projections and that customer feedback has been positive. She also reported strong bicycle ridership, Monon Corridor on-time performance of approximately 97%, and overall weekday system on-time performance of just under 90%. Staff will continue to monitor service performance and evaluate future schedule adjustments and service opportunities.

Chief Operating Officer Anthony Hall presented the Operations Report. He reported that full Monon Corridor service began March 31st and is currently achieving approximately 97% on-time

performance. Overall weekday system on-time performance was just under 90%, despite impacts from Metra's Track 4 construction project and related operational adjustments.

Mr. Hall noted that staff will continue evaluating service performance and working with Metra on future scheduling opportunities. He also reported that customer surveys are being distributed to gather feedback on Monon Corridor service and potential enhancements, including additional direct train service and improved transfer opportunities.

OTHER BUSINESS

None

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Arnold 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 July 27, 2026.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Arnold", written in a cursive style.

Jim Arnold, Secretary



PROCUREMENT RECOMMENDATIONS May 18, 2026

PTC Department:

Proposal:

- **PTC Level 3 Support Services**

Mechanical Department

Sole Source:

- **Auxiliary Power Supply Units**

West Lake:

Sole Source:

- **Design Build – Change Order 23**

RECOMMENDATION
IT Department
PTC Level 3 Support
May 18, 2026

A. SCOPE

The PTC Department has requested proposals from qualified firms to select an appropriate Level 3 support team for the Positive Train Control (PTC) Program. Proposals were solicited and a private proposal opening was held at the Dune Park Office on April 22, 2026.

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
Gary Crusader - Gary, Indiana
The Times - Hammond, Indiana
NICTD Plan Room

2. Proposal Review

A total of five (5) packets were requested prior to the proposal opening. The request resulted in the receipt of two (2) 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.	Non-Discrim.	Rest. Lobby	Drug Free	Cert. of Qual.	E-Verify	Iran Invst.	Buy Amer.
DG Strategies LLC Rockwall, Texas	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Raul V. Bravo + Associates, Inc. Reston, Virginia	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

C. STAFF REVIEW

Team Evaluation Review:

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

- i) Business Organization & History

- ii) Team Identification
- iii) Statement of Qualifications and Approach
- iv) Pricing Proposal

The evaluation review resulted in interviews with both firms.

Proposer	Score	Rank
DG Strategies LLC	212	1
Raul V. Bravo + Associates, Inc.	182	2

The District held interviews with both proposers to clarify the details of their proposals. As a result, DG Strategies LLC was identified as the strongest proposer. DG Strategies had the most comprehensive and complete approach, and the District was able to discuss a contract amount that will ensure the PTC Program will have adequate Level 3 support through a not-to-exceed contract amount based on the District's historical data.

D. RECOMMENDATION

The Staff recommends that DG Strategies LLC of Rockwall, Texas be awarded the Contract for PTC Level 3 Support in the amount of Two Million Dollars (\$2,000,000.00). 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 annual expenditure on this service is anticipated not to exceed \$400,000.

The Staff is requesting that the Board grant the President the authority to issue the Notice to Proceed for PTC Level 3 Support at his discretion.

Recommendation
Mechanical Department
Auxiliary Power Supply Units
May 18, 2026

The Mechanical Department requests the procurement of auxiliary power supply (APS) units produced by Wabtec Corporation. The District has determined that additional APS units are needed due to the increased number of cars that have been added to NICTD's fleet. The APS units are required components for NICTD's railcars. Without these required parts, NICTD's railcars would be held out of service.

Wabtec APS units are currently installed on 14 of NICTD's 300 Series commuter cars, as well as 26 leased cars from Metra. This is a sole source procurement due to quality, previous experience, and the proprietary nature of these parts. Wabtec is the OEM and the manufacturer authorized to build these components.

Description	Qty	Price	Total
Auxiliary Power Supply Unit	8	\$391,545.00	\$3,132,360.00

The District has reviewed the proposed pricing by Wabtec Corporation and has determined this pricing to be fair and reasonable based on previous orders of APS units.

The Staff is requesting the Board grant the President the authority to enter into a contract for an amount of Three Million, One Hundred Thirty-Two Thousand, Three Hundred Sixty Dollars and ⁰⁰/₁₀₀ (\$3,132,360.00) with Wabtec Corporation of Duncan, South Carolina for auxiliary power supply units.

RECOMMENDATION
West Lake Design-Build
Change Order 23
May 18, 2026

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 twenty-two change orders totaling \$32,141,118.74. Change order twenty-three authorizes an additional \$762,114.98. The updated total contract price would be \$587,843,754.72.

PCO	Change Description	Cost
232	Munster Ridge PBSR Design	\$242,156.74
301	West Lake Wayside Interface Unit Re-Configuration	\$59,461.70
310	Support Modifications for NICTD Disaster Drills	\$3,282.33
311	CP 61.6 and 61.9 Access Road Gates	\$16,840.66
314	Superior Street Signal Case Bollards	\$8,659.96
318	Munster Ridge PBSR Construction	\$431,713.59
Total		\$762,114.98

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 twenty-three to contract 94028 in the amount of Seven Hundred Sixty-Two Thousand, One Hundred Fourteen Dollars and ⁹⁸/₁₀₀ (\$762,114.98), pending RDA and IFA approval.