



**NORTHERN INDIANA COMMUTER TRANSPORTATION DISTRICT
BOARD MEETING**

July 27, 2026

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

David Dech
Chuck Lukmann, Esq.
Anthony Hall
Kevin Dywan
Joseph Cieniawski
Peggy Dickey

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

Connie Grashel
Amber Kettring
Kristen Coslet
Christine Dearing
Melissa Jones

OTHERS PRESENT

Steven Lyons
Doug Ross
Timothy Whalen
Joe Crnkovich
Kane Koehneke

Gary Foyle
Laura Rose Udem
Greg Price
Justin Elliot
Andy Kostielney

Christopher Beck
Joe Ivanhoe
Andrew Steele
Hodge Patel

CALL TO ORDER

NICTD Board Chair Lyndsay Quist 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, Carl Baxmeyer and Lyndsay Quist were present. Board member Eddie Melton was absent.

SAFETY BRIEFING

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

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Ms. Quist requested a motion to approve the Board Meeting Minutes of May 18, 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

Christopher Beck made comments concerning his supplemental pension benefits, bridge plates on trains and the West Lake Corridor ribbon-cutting event.

PURCHASING (Procurement Recommendation Packet Attached)

Tony Siegmund, Director of Procurement, presented six recommendations to the Board. The first item was for the Engineering Department for bids for Ties 2027.

The Engineering Department requested bids for ties to be delivered in 1st quarter of 2027. This project includes a base bid of 18,000 ties delivered to Gary, IN and 500 ties delivered to Hammond, IN, with an option of up to 5,000 additional ties delivered to Gary, IN. Bids were solicited and a public bid opening was held virtually and in-person at the Dune Park Office on Thursday, July 2, 2026.

A total of six bids were received. It was determined that the lowest responsible bidder submitted all required forms and was approved by the appropriate NICTD staff. All forms were correctly submitted and found to be within the guidelines set forth by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA). Four bidders submitted incomplete certificates; however, these were minor informalities, and the affected bidders would have been permitted to cure the deficiencies had they provided the lowest bid. Because they were not the lowest bidder, no further action was taken.

The lowest responsive and responsible bid for ties is Koppers, Inc., with a base bid of \$1,399,625.00. This is 8.4% (\$128,845.00) less than the engineer's estimate of \$1,528,470.00.

The Staff recommended that Koppers, Inc. of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania be awarded the contract for ties in the amount up to One Million, Seven Hundred Seventy-Seven Thousand, Seven Hundred Fifty Dollars and 00/100 (\$1,777,750.00).

The Staff requested that the Board grant the President the authority to issue the Notice to Proceed for ties 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 Ties 2027, at his discretion, in accordance with the staff recommendation. The motion was seconded by Mr. Baxmeyer and, on a roll call vote, passed unanimously.

Mr. Siegmund presented the second procurement item from the Engineering Department for HVAC replacement in the maintenance shops. This project includes removing the existing boiler, pumps, localized reheat coils, and rooftop unit and installing new equipment, along with supportive infrastructure. Bids were solicited and a public bid opening was held virtually and in-person at the Dune Park Office on Thursday, July 2, 2026.

A total of four (4) packets were requested prior to the bid opening. The request resulted in the receipt of two (2) bids. The bids were evaluated for responsiveness to establish if they could be accepted for further review.

The lowest responsive and responsible bid for the maintenance shops HVAC replacement project is Circle R Mechanical, Inc., with a bid of \$597,000.00. This is 49.25% (\$197,000.00) more than the engineer's estimate of \$400,000.00.

The Staff recommended that Circle R Mechanical, Inc. of Portage, Indiana be awarded the contract for the maintenance shops HVAC replacement project in the amount of Six Hundred Three Thousand, Dollars and 00/100 (\$603,000.00).

The Staff requested that the Board grant the President the authority to issue the Notice to Proceed for the maintenance shops HVAC replacement project at his discretion.

Mr. Arnold made a motion to grant authority to the NICTD President to proceed with the contract for replacement of HVAC for maintenance shops at his discretion, in accordance with the staff recommendation. The motion was seconded by Mr. Baxmeyer and, on a roll call vote, passed unanimously.

Mr. Siegmund presented the third procurement item from the Engineering Department for Hegewisch crossing engineering. The Engineering Department has requested proposals from qualified firms for Hegewisch crossing engineering. This project is to enhance the current Hegewisch Station Pedestrian/Pathway Crossings at each end of the platforms on Main Track 2. The current crossings utilize a passive warning system. The design effort in this work scope will provide NICTD with new active grade crossing warning systems at these two (2) single track crossings on Main Track 2. Proposals were solicited and a private proposal opening was held at the Dune Park Office on Thursday, June 18, 2026.

Five proposals were received. The evaluation review resulted in interviews with three (3) firms to clarify the details of their proposals. As a result, Benesch was identified as the strongest proposer. Benesch had the most comprehensive and complete approach.

The independent cost estimate for this project was \$600,000.00. The total contract value of the project is deemed fair and reasonable at \$645,717.00.

The Staff recommended that Benesch of Chicago, Illinois be awarded the contract for Hegewisch crossing engineering in the amount of Six Hundred Forty-Five Thousand, Seven Hundred Seventeen Dollars and 00/100 (\$645,717.00).

The Staff requested that the Board grant the President the authority to issue the Notice to Proceed for Hegewisch crossing engineering at his discretion.

Mr. Costas made a motion to grant authority to the NICTD President to approve the contract for Hegewisch crossing engineering, at his discretion, in accordance with the staff recommendation. The motion was seconded by Mr. Arnold and, on a roll call vote, passed unanimously.

Mr. Siegmund presented the fourth procurement item from the Mechanical Department, requesting approval for a wheel truing machine controls upgrade.

The District has determined that this upgrade is necessary following an official Notice of Obsolescence from the manufacturer, which states that key communication adapters and control modules are no longer manufactured or supported. Without this proactive upgrade, continued operation of the legacy 1983 machine poses a severe risk of prolonged, unplanned production downtime due to unavailable replacement parts. Maintaining this equipment is critical to ensuring regular wheel maintenance and keeping the District's rail vehicles in a State of Good Repair.

The District completed nine purchase orders totaling \$55,854.00 in the last three years to maintain this wheel truing machine. NICTD has had issues with the controls in recent years and contemplated upgrading this system prior to the notice of obsolescence. An independent cost estimate of \$350,000.00 was prepared for this work. 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 Staff requested the Board grant the President the authority to enter into a contract for an amount of Three Hundred Fifty-Nine Thousand, Nine Hundred Nineteen Dollars and 00/100 (\$359,919.00) with NSH USA Corporation of Albany, New York for the Wheel Truing Machine Controls Upgrade

Mr. Arnold made a motion to grant authority to the NICTD President to enter into the contract for the Mechanical Department, wheel truing machine controls upgrade, at his discretion, in accordance with the staff recommendation. The motion was seconded by Mr. Costas and, on a roll call vote, passed unanimously.

Mr. Siegmund presented the fifth procurement item from the Mechanical Department, requesting approval for radiant heaters for Track 0.

The radiant heaters would be used to efficiently thaw frozen cars during the winter months. NICTD's rail fleet has increased and requires a faster way to remove ice and snow from underneath critical components before routine inspections and repairs can be made to the rail cars. Previous

methods included kerosene heaters directed towards rail cars and took 1- to 2 days to clear frozen materials, tying up several bays.

The District has investigated other methods of defrosting cars and has identified radiant heaters placed under the rail cars as the most efficient method, potentially thawing two cars within four hours. A preliminary engineering study has been completed for \$7,000.00 that identifies how many heaters are needed, how the mounting could be completed, and how the electrical power could be installed. The final design is anticipated within the next couple of weeks. This design will be used by NICTD to obtain bids on equipment and installation of these heaters.

An independent cost estimate of \$300,000.00 was prepared for this work.

Staff requested that the Board grant the President authority to enter into a contract for radiant heaters in an amount not to exceed Three Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$300,000.00). Staff will solicit competitive bids for the equipment and installation and award the contract to the most competitive, responsible vendor able to provide the equipment in time for the upcoming winter season.

Mr. Costas made a motion to grant authority to the NICTD President to approve the contract for purchase of radiant heaters for the Mechanical Department, at his discretion, in accordance with the staff recommendation. The motion was seconded by Mr. Baxmeyer and, on a roll call vote, passed unanimously.

Mr. Siegmund presented the sixth procurement item from West Lake Design-Build, requesting approval for Change Order 24. 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-three change orders totaling \$32,903,233.72. Change order twenty-four authorizes an overall credit of \$889,692.10. The updated total contract price would be \$586,954,152.62. 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-four to contract 94028 in the credit amount of Eight Hundred Eighty-Nine Thousand, Six Hundred Two Dollars and 10/100 (-\$889,602.10), pending RDA and IFA approval.

Mr. Baxmeyer made a motion to grant authority to the NICTD President to approve West Lake Design Build, Change Order 24, at his discretion, in accordance with the staff recommendation. The motion was seconded by Mr. Arnold and, on a roll call vote, passed unanimously.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Derailment

President David Dech reported on the June 24 freight derailment at the Grand Calumet Bridge west of the East Chicago Station. During severe storm activity, 13 empty freight cars derailed, causing damage to the overhead catenary system but no significant bridge or track damage. No injuries occurred during the derailment, cleanup, or restoration efforts.

Mr. Dech commended NICTD staff, train crews, contractors, and ironworkers for their extensive efforts to restore service and safely repair the specialized bridge-mounted infrastructure. Temporary bus service was provided during the disruption. He also thanked passengers for their patience and noted that NICTD will review the response to identify opportunities for improvement.

Monon Corridor

Monon Corridor service continues to perform well with strong on-time performance. During the recent freight derailment, a weekend schedule was implemented on the Monon Corridor due to equipment availability and logistical challenges associated with the service disruption. Customer feedback regarding the direct Dyer-to-Chicago trains operated during the incident was overwhelmingly positive, and staff are evaluating opportunities to incorporate similar service options in the future.

South Bend Airport Realignment Project

An update was provided on the South Bend Airport Realignment Project, including NICTD's submission of three grant applications, among them an FRA Road Crossing Elimination Grant and a Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) Grant. The Road Crossing Elimination Grant was identified as a strong funding opportunity due to the project's ability to eliminate numerous roadway crossings. Although no award timeline has been announced, NICTD continues to actively pursue grant funding and advocate for the project at the federal level.

Insurance

An update was provided on federally required commuter rail liability insurance, which is currently set at \$323 million and is expected to increase to more than \$400 million this year based on inflation adjustments. Once the new requirement is announced, commuter railroads will have 30 days to obtain additional coverage. NICTD has been working proactively with underwriters in preparation for the increase and is confident it will secure the necessary coverage to maintain operations. Because the Authority's insurance renews in November, approximately \$80 million in additional coverage is expected to be purchased ahead of the regular renewal.

STRATEGIC PLAN

Kelly Wenger, Director of Strategic Planning & Grants, presented the Strategic Plan developed over the past 18 months with assistance from AECOM and informed by input from riders, employees, community stakeholders, and the public. The plan builds upon the success of the 2014 Strategic Plan, including major projects such as Double Track and the West Lake Corridor, and establishes priorities for the next 20 years.

Key focus areas include improving service reliability, growing ridership, addressing changing travel patterns since the pandemic, planning for future fleet replacement needs, advancing capital projects such as the South Bend Realignment, strengthening partnerships, and supporting transit-oriented development around stations. The plan will serve as a guide for future capital investments and to help position NICTD to pursue funding and expansion opportunities as they arise. Board members expressed support for the plan and its data-driven approach to identifying future needs and opportunities.

RESOLUTION NO. 26 - 03

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE NORTHERN INDIANA COMMUTER TRANSPORTATION DISTRICT ADOPTING THE DISTRICT'S 20-YEAR STRATEGIC BUSINESS PLAN

Following the presentation and discussion of the Strategic Plan, Counsel Chuck Lukmann commended NICTD for the accomplishments achieved under previous planning efforts and the work reflected in the new plan. Resolution No. 26-03, adopting NICTD's 20-Year Strategic Business Plan, was presented to the Board for consideration. Mr. Baxmeyer moved to adopt the resolution, and Mr. Costas seconded the motion. Upon roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously.

ADVERTISING AND MARKETING REPORT

Amber Kettring, Manager of Customer Service and Communications reported that NICTD's registered trademark logo has been approved and will be incorporated into future public materials. She highlighted updated station advertising, expanded use of QR codes for rider information, and ongoing human trafficking awareness efforts, including employee training and station signage.

Ms. Kettring also provided an update on special events, noting that Pride Parade ridership was impacted by the recent derailment. Upcoming events include Lollapalooza, Bears games, an AC/DC concert, and Notre Dame football events, with additional train service planned as needed.

TICKET SALES, RIDERSHIP AND OPERATIONS REPORT

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

Ms. Wenger reported that, beginning in April, ridership and ticket sales figures include West Lake Corridor service. Despite service disruptions caused by the June freight derailment, overall ridership and ticket revenue trends remained positive. As a customer accommodation, June monthly tickets were honored through July.

Ms. Wenger noted that NICTD continues to see gradual ridership growth and highlighted the success of year-round bicycle service. A ridership and revenue breakdown for the Monon Corridor was also presented, with approximately 15% of revenue attributed to the corridor. She noted that ridership is expected to increase as customers become more familiar with the transfer process at Hammond.

Chief Operating Officer Anthony Hall presented the Operations Report.

Mr. Hall reported that the Monon Corridor achieved on-time performance exceeding 95% from the start of service through the freight derailment, while the South Shore Line maintained approximately 81% on-time performance. He noted that staff are evaluating service adjustments in response to positive customer feedback regarding the temporary direct Dyer-to-Chicago service operated during the disruption and are working with Metra to explore future scheduling opportunities.

Mr. Hall also recognized the efforts of NICTD employees during the derailment-related service interruption. Staff worked to implement bus substitutions, restore service, and assist passengers throughout the disruption, helping to minimize impacts to customers.

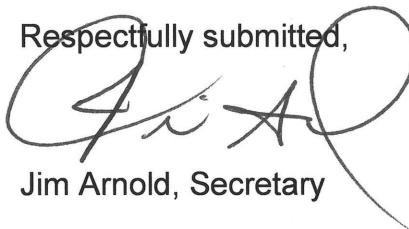
OTHER BUSINESS

None

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Quist made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Baxmeyer, and on the roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously. The next board meeting is scheduled for October 5, 2026.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Arnold", is written over the typed name. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Jim Arnold, Secretary



PROCUREMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

July 27, 2026

Engineering Department

Bids:

- **Ties 2027**
- **Maintenance Shops HVAC Replacement**

Proposal:

- **Hegewisch Crossing Engineering**

Mechanical Department

Sole Source:

- **Wheel Truing Machine Controls Upgrade**
- **Radiant Heaters - Track 0**

West Lake:

Sole Source:

- **Design Build – Change Order 24**

RECOMMENDATION
Engineering Department
Ties 2027
July 27, 2026

A. SCOPE

The Engineering Department has requested bids for ties to be delivered in 1st quarter of 2027. This project includes a base bid of 18,000 ties delivered to Gary, IN and 500 ties delivered to Hammond, IN, with an option of up to 5,000 additional ties delivered to Gary, IN. Bids were solicited and a public bid opening was held virtually and in-person at the Dune Park Office on Thursday, July 2, 2026.

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 ten (10) packets were requested prior to the bid opening. The request resulted in the receipt of six (6) bids. The bids were evaluated for responsiveness to establish if they could be accepted for further review.

It was determined that the lowest responsible bidder submitted all required forms and was approved by the appropriate NICTD staff. All forms were correctly submitted and found to be within the guidelines set forth by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA). Four bidders submitted incomplete certificates; however, these were minor informalities, and the affected bidders would have been permitted to cure the deficiencies had they provided the lowest bid. Because they were not the lowest bidder, no further action was taken.

Bidder	Eligible Bidder	Debar. Susp.	DBE	Non-Discrim.	Rest. Lobby	Drug Free	Cert. of Qual.	E-Verify	Iran Invst.	Data Form	Buy Amer.
Appalachian Timber Services Sutton, West Virginia	X	X	-	X	X	X	-	X	X	-	X
Koppers, Inc. Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
M&K Imports LLC Millbrook, New York	X	X	X	X	X	X	-	X	X	X	X
Missouri Tie LLC Bunker, Missouri	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Stella-Jones Corporation Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania	X	X	X	X	X	X	-	X	X	X	X
Technology International Inc. Lake Mary, Florida	X	X	X	X	X	X	-	X	X	-	X

C. ENGINEERING REVIEW & PRICE ANALYSIS

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

The lowest responsive and responsible bid for ties is Koppers, Inc., with a base bid of \$1,399,625.00. This is 8.4% (\$128,845.00) less than the engineer's estimate of \$1,528,470.00.

Company	Base Bid	Option	Total	Avg. per Tie
Koppers Inc.	\$1,399,625.00	\$378,125.00	\$1,777,750.00	\$75.65
Appalachian Timber	\$1,400,891.50	\$379,711.00	\$1,780,602.50	\$75.77
Missouri Tie LLC	\$1,434,550.00	\$387,500.00	\$1,822,050.00	\$77.53
M&K Imports LLC	\$1,580,360.00	\$428,100.00	\$2,008,460.00	\$85.47
Stella-Jones Corp.	\$1,713,032.55	\$462,508.75	\$2,175,541.30	\$92.58
Tech. International	\$1,834,460.00	\$495,800.00	\$2,330,260.00	\$99.16

D. DELIVERY

Koppers, Inc. can meet the District's delivery schedule for January 1, 2027, through March 31, 2027.

E. RECOMMENDATION

The Staff recommends that Koppers, Inc. of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania be awarded the contract for ties in the amount up to One Million, Seven Hundred Seventy-Seven Thousand, Seven Hundred Fifty Dollars and ⁰⁰/₁₀₀ (\$1,777,750.00).

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

July 27, 2026

A. SCOPE

The Engineering Department has requested bids for an HVAC replacement in the maintenance shops. This project includes removing the existing boiler, pumps, localized reheat coils, and rooftop unit and installing new equipment, along with supportive infrastructure. Bids were solicited and a public bid opening was held virtually and in-person at the Dune Park Office on Thursday, July 2, 2026.

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 four (4) packets were requested prior to the bid opening. The request resulted in the receipt of two (2) bids. The bids were evaluated for responsiveness to establish if they could be accepted for further review.

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

[illegible]

C. ENGINEERING REVIEW & PRICE ANALYSIS

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

The lowest responsive and responsible bid for the maintenance shops HVAC replacement project is Circle R Mechanical, Inc., with a bid of \$597,000.00. This is 49.25% (\$197,000.00) more than the engineer's estimate of \$400,000.00.

Description	Circle R Mechanical, Inc.	D.A. Dodd, LLC
Lump Sum Base Bid: Includes all mechanical, electrical, structural, controls, demolition, and commissioning	\$597,000.00	\$662,830.00
Alternate Bid Item: Removal of existing Air Handling Unit, associated ductwork/piping, and patching roof opening	\$6,000.00	\$14,096.00
Total	\$603,000.00	\$676,926.00

D. DELIVERY

Circle R can meet the District's project completion schedule for April 30, 2027.

E. RECOMMENDATION

The Staff recommends that Circle R Mechanical, Inc. of Portage, Indiana be awarded the contract for the maintenance shops HVAC replacement project in the amount of Six Hundred Three Thousand, Dollars and ⁰⁰/₁₀₀ (\$603,000.00).

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

RECOMMENDATION
Engineering Department
Hegewisch Crossing Engineering
July 27, 2026

A. SCOPE

The Engineering Department has requested proposals from qualified firms for Hegewisch crossing engineering. This project is to enhance the current Hegewisch Station Pedestrian/Pathway Crossings at each end of the platforms on Main Track 2. The current crossings utilize a passive warning system. The design effort in this work scope will provide NICTD with new active grade crossing warning systems at these two (2) single track crossings on Main Track 2. Proposals were solicited and a private proposal opening was held at the Dune Park Office on Thursday, June 18, 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 twenty-one (21) packets were requested prior to the proposal opening. The request resulted in the receipt of five (5) proposals.

3. DBE & Required Forms

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

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

Proposer	Eligible Bidder	Debar. Susp.	DBE	Non-Discrim.	Rest. Lobby	Drug Free	Cert. of Qual.	E-Verify	Iran Invst.	Data Form
AECOM Technical Services, Inc. Chicago, Illinois	X	X	19.8%	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Alfred Benesch & Company Chicago, Illinois	X	X	2.0%	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

Proposer	Eligible Bidder	Debar. Susp.	DBE	Non-Discrim.	Rest. Lobby	Drug Free	Cert. of Qual.	E-Verify	Iran Invst.	Data Form
GFT Infrastructure, Inc. Chicago, Illinois	X	X	0%	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Hatch Associates Consultants, Inc. Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania	X	X	2.2%	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Jacobs Engineering Group Inc. Chicago, Illinois	X	X	0%	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

C. STAFF REVIEW

Team Evaluation Review:

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

- i) Business Organization & History
- ii) Team Identification
- iii) Statement of Qualifications & Approach

The evaluation review resulted in interviews with three (3) firms to clarify the details of their proposals.

Proposer	Score	Rank
Benesch	91.3	1
AECOM	84.0	2
GFT	74.8	3

As a result, Benesch was identified as the strongest proposer. Benesch had the most comprehensive and complete approach.

The independent cost estimate for this project was \$600,000.00. The total contract value of the project is deemed fair and reasonable at \$645,717.00.

D. RECOMMENDATION

The Staff recommends that Benesch of Chicago, Illinois be awarded the contract for Hegewisch crossing engineering in the amount of Six Hundred Forty-Five Thousand, Seven Hundred Seventeen Dollars and ⁰⁰/₁₀₀ (\$645,717.00).

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

Recommendation
Mechanical Department
Wheel Truing Machine Controls Upgrade
July 27, 2026

The Mechanical Department requests the procurement of a Wheel Truing Machine Controls Upgrade from NSH USA Corporation. The District has determined that this upgrade is necessary following an official Notice of Obsolescence from the manufacturer, which states that key communication adapters and control modules are no longer manufactured or supported. Without this proactive upgrade, continued operation of the legacy 1983 machine poses a severe risk of prolonged, unplanned production downtime due to unavailable replacement parts. Maintaining this equipment is critical to ensuring regular wheel maintenance and keeping the District's rail vehicles in a State of Good Repair.

The District completed nine purchase orders totaling \$55,854.00 in the last three years to maintain this wheel truing machine. NICTD has had issues with the controls in recent years and contemplated upgrading this system prior to the notice of obsolescence. An independent cost estimate of \$350,000.00 was prepared for this work.

This is a sole source procurement because NSH USA Corporation is the Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) and possesses the highly specialized engineering blueprints, proprietary software, and technical expertise required to interface with the existing system. In accordance with Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Circular 4220.1F, Chapter VI, Section 3.i(1)(b)1.c, a sole source award is justified because contracting with an alternate vendor would result in substantial duplication of costs that would not be recovered through competition.

Description	Total
STANRAY TN-84C Automatic Controls Upgrade	\$249,223.00
Roadworthy Packing and Delivery to Site	\$15,830.00
Installation Supervision, Commissioning, Training	\$77,766.00
Extended Warranty (One additional year)	\$17,100.00
Grand Total	\$359,919.00

The District has reviewed the proposed pricing by NSH USA Corporation and has determined it to be fair and reasonable, as it falls within the boundaries of the District's Independent Cost Estimate (ICE) of \$350,000.00 for base equipment and installation, with the added protection of a critical one-year extended warranty option.

The Staff is requesting the Board grant the President the authority to enter into a contract for an amount of Three Hundred Fifty-Nine Thousand, Nine Hundred Nineteen Dollars and ⁰⁰/₁₀₀ (\$359,919.00) with NSH USA Corporation of Albany, New York for the Wheel Truing Machine Controls Upgrade.

Recommendation
Mechanical Department
Radiant Heaters – Track 0
July 27, 2026

The Mechanical Department requests the procurement of radiant heaters to efficiently thaw frozen cars during the winter months. NICTD's rail fleet has increased and requires a faster way to remove ice and snow from underneath critical components before routine inspections and repairs can be made to the rail cars. Previous methods included kerosene heaters directed towards rail cars and took 1- to 2 days to clear frozen materials, tying up several bays.

The District has investigated other methods of defrosting cars and has identified radiant heaters placed under the rail cars as the most efficient method. potentially thawing two cars within four hours. A preliminary engineering study has been completed for \$7,000.00 that identifies how many heaters are needed, how the mounting could be completed, and how the electrical power could be installed. The final design is anticipated within the next couple of weeks. This design will be used by NICTD to obtain bids on equipment and installation of these heaters.

An independent cost estimate of \$300,000.00 was prepared for this work.

Staff requests that the Board grant the President authority to enter into a contract for radiant heaters in an amount not to exceed Three Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$300,000.00). Staff will solicit competitive bids for the equipment and installation and award the contract to the most competitive, responsible vendor able to provide the equipment in time for the upcoming winter season.

RECOMMENDATION
West Lake Design-Build
Change Order 24
July 27, 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-three change orders totaling \$32,903,233.72. Change order twenty-four authorizes an overall credit of \$889,692.10. The updated total contract price would be \$586,954,152.62.

PCO	Change Description	Cost
238	Hammond Gateway Fiber Optic Direct Connection Addition	\$81,806.92
245	South Hammond Station Gutter Addition	\$108,542.31
271	Hammond Gateway SSL PBSR Design	\$419,161.48
303	MSF Yard #8 Turnout IJ Removals	\$64,440.95
304	Quiet Zone Signage Modifications	\$172,087.83
306	Hammond Gateway SSL PBSR Construction	\$360,852.46
307	Fisher Street Curb Modifications	\$41,291.83
312	Manor Ave. Sidewalk Approaches Removal	\$59,294.01
315	Monon Corridor Right-of-Way Signage Removal and Adjustments	\$12,569.66
322	Hammond Gateway PBSR Signal Relay Additions	\$71,998.35
323	Utility Allowance Closeout Credit	(\$2,281,647.90)
Total		(\$889,602.10)

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-four to contract 94028 in the credit amount of Eight Hundred Eighty-Nine Thousand, Six Hundred Two Dollars and ¹⁰/₁₀₀ (-\$889,602.10), pending RDA and IFA approval.