

LAPORTE COUNTY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION 2017-01

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE NORTHWEST INDIANA DOUBLE TRACK PROJECT FOR THE NORTHWEST INDIANA COMMUTER TRANSPORTATION DISTRICT (NICTD) OPERATING THE SOUTH SHORE LINE

WHEREAS, the Northwest Indiana Commuter Transportation District (NICTD) has for many years operated in the middle of 10th and 11th Streets in Michigan City over track that is embedded in asphalt which presents insurmountable obstacles to modernizing the South Shore Line; and

WHEREAS, issues that exist because of the present “in street” alignment of the South Shore Line are obstacles to NICTD's ability to enhance safety, comply with the Federal Railway Safety Improvement Act of 2008, address the excessive number of grade crossings, modernize the signal and catenary systems, and provide a fully accessible passenger station; and

WHEREAS, NICTD is presently engaged in what is referred to as a “Core” Capacity Project,” a four (4) county project benefiting Northwest Indiana that has an estimated cost of \$250,000,000, approximately half of which is expected to be utilized for modernizing and improving the South Shore Line's facilities through Michigan City, Indiana; and

WHEREAS, LaPorte County supports the Core Capacity Project between the four (4) counties, which includes that portion of the project directly affecting Michigan City, which is referred to as the Double Track NWI (the “Project”); and

WHEREAS, the Project, which is in the environmental investigation and preliminary engineering phase, involves double tracking the South Shore Line from Tennessee Street in Gary to Michigan Boulevard in Michigan City; and

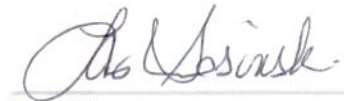
WHEREAS, LaPorte County reasonably believes that the Project will be of tremendous benefit to LaPorte County and its residents, businesses, and visitors by increasing ridership on the South Shore Line, increasing train frequency, reducing travel time, improvement of passenger service in LaPorte County, enhancing safety crossings, and reduction of track and road maintenance costs all of which will contribute to increasing economic development in LaPorte County, including, but not limited to, transit oriented development.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the LaPorte County Council as follows:

1. The aforementioned "Whereas" sections are incorporated herein as if fully set forth herein.
2. The LaPorte County Council resolves to work with all the necessary governmental entities in support of the construction of the Double Track Project as proposed by Northwest Indiana Commuter Transportation District (NICTD).

This Resolution shall be in full force and effect after passage and approval.

Passed by the LaPorte County Council, LaPorte County, Indiana, this ___ day January, 2017.

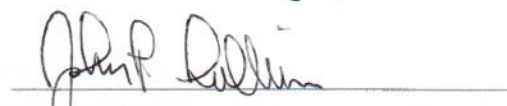


President



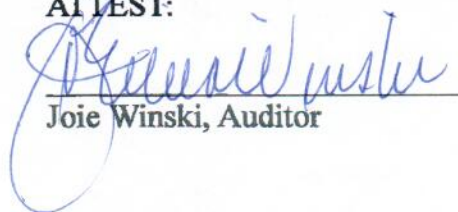








ATTEST:



Joie Winski, Auditor