



Open House Public Hearing October 2017

Welcome to the Open House Public Hearing for the Double Track Northwest Indiana Project. A running slide show will provide a brief overview of the Project and location-specific details are available at the exhibit stations. Staff members are available to discuss the project and answer your questions.



Connectivity for Accelerated Growth

The Northern Indiana Commuter Transportation District (NICTD) is applying for Core Capacity federal funds administered by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) to construct a second track next to the existing South Shore Line track from Gary to Michigan City, Indiana. NICTD, in coordination with FTA, has prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) to document the benefits and impacts of the alternatives considered. The EA also evaluates the effects of historic properties in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and the uses of property from historic properties, publicly-owned parks, recreation, and wildlife/waterfowl resources protected under Section 4(f) of the U.S. Department of Transportation Act. Project elements include:

- 16.9 miles of second track
- 4 new bridges
- New platforms and/or parking at Gary/Miller, Portage/Ogden Dunes, Dune Park, Beverly Shores, and 11th Street (Michigan City) stations
- Removal of street-running track in Michigan City and construction of new separated tracks south of 10th Street and along the north side of 11th Street

NICTD's current planning efforts, coupled with local community initiatives, are the building blocks to develop a long term, sustainable solution for competitive, reliable commuter rail service in northwestern Indiana.

Construction of the Project would result in:

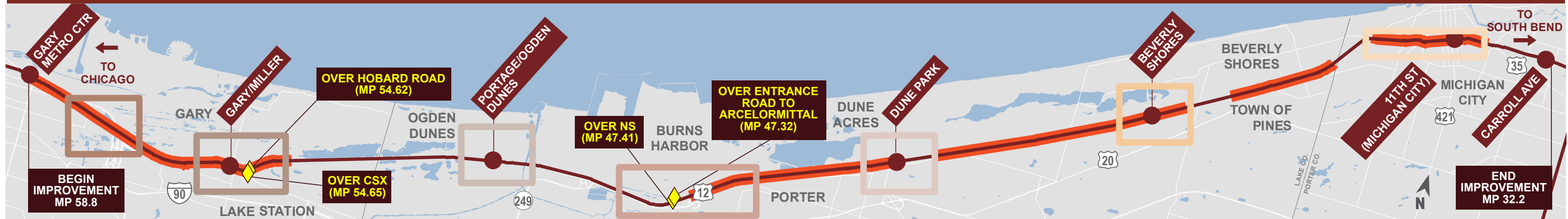


What's Next?

- NICTD and FTA will respond to public comments on the EA.
- FTA will issue a NEPA decision document summarizing results of the EA including all comments and responses.
- NICTD will receive a Project Rating from the FTA to start the next phase of the Capital Investment Grant funding process.



LOCATION FEATURES AND IMPACTS



GOFF/CN (GARY)	GARY/MILLER STATION	PORTAGE/OGDEN DUNES	BAILLY NEAR BURNS HARBOR	DUNE PARK	BEVERLY SHORES	MICHIGAN CITY
<p>KEY FEATURES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> New second track south of the existing track Shifts the existing CSS freight siding track Shifts the CSS connection to CN freight track <p>IMPACTS + MITIGATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fill in wetlands <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mitigation to be completed by enhancing and restoring wetlands at the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore Temporary construction easement from Indiana Department of Transportation for work near U.S. 12 	<p>KEY FEATURES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reroutes U.S. 12 to merge with U.S. 20 (separate project by INDOT) Realigns two SSL tracks south of existing tracks Two ADA-accessible high-level platforms with warming shelters Station building and crew welfare building Gauntlet tracks for freight train operations past high-level platforms Storage tracks for trains ending or starting at Miller Expanded parking Two new bridges east of the station area, over Hobart Road and the CSX tracks <p>IMPACTS + MITIGATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Land acquisitions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 37 commercial properties <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 31 vacant parcels 6 with buildings 1 residential property 1 INDOT property Temporary construction impacts include noise, visual changes, traffic, and parking lot access <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parking staging and maintenance of traffic during construction Close coordination with businesses regarding work in their area and maintaining access Visual changes in station area and eastward with grade change near storage tracks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordination with Gary and INDOT on landscaping and retaining walls 	<p>KEY FEATURES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two ADA-accessible high-level platforms with warming shelters Additional parking <p>IMPACTS + MITIGATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Land acquisition <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 commercial properties <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 vacant parcel 1 building Plan for parking staging during construction Tree clearing during winter to avoid impacting protected bat species and migratory birds 	<p>KEY FEATURES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commuter and freight operations separated Two CSS freight tracks to the north, with crossovers Two NICTD tracks to the south 7,000-foot freight siding track between Midwest Steel and McCool Road Two new bridges over NS tracks and ArcelorMittal entrance (parallel to existing bridges) <p>IMPACTS + MITIGATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fill in wetlands <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mitigation to be completed by enhancing and restoring wetlands at the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore Construction in suitable habitat areas for threatened & endangered species <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Drift fences Daily inspections Removal of protected amphibians, reptiles, and plant species from construction area, if practicable 	<p>KEY FEATURES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> One additional low-level platform Gauntlet track for freight train operations past existing high-level platform Expanded parking lot <p>IMPACTS + MITIGATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Relocation of Calumet Trail under State Route 49 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Calumet Trail would remain open and accessible during construction Fill in wetlands <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mitigation to be completed by enhancing and restoring wetlands at the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore Construction in suitable habitat for threatened & endangered species <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Drift fences Daily inspections Removal of protected amphibians, reptiles, and plant species from construction area, if practicable 	<p>KEY FEATURES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> New track north of existing track Two new low-level platforms <p>IMPACTS + MITIGATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two vibration impacts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Modifications to the track in this location would be evaluated and installed to reduce vibration Two noise impacts from train horn <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Train horn noise would be mitigated by lowering the horn volume 	<p>KEY FEATURES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Removes embedded street-running track Two new tracks south of 10th Street and on the north side of 11th Street, separated from roadway New parking garage and station facility, incorporating façade of old South Shore Station building Two high-level platforms Removes 21 at-grade crossings and upgrades remaining crossings Establishes Quiet Zone Closes 3 streets to the south of 10th Street Two-way traffic on 10th Street Closes 10 streets to the north of 11th Street One-way eastbound traffic on 11th Street <p>IMPACTS + MITIGATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Land Acquisition <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 53 residential - 23 vacant parcels, 30 buildings 23 commercial - 15 vacant parcels, 8 buildings 7 municipal and 3 utility, all vacant parcels Changes to travel patterns and Bus Route 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Traffic redirected to the next nearest cross street, generally two to three blocks away Coordination with Michigan City Transit Five vibration impacts north of 11th Street, between Elston and Washington Streets <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Modifications to the track to be evaluated and installed to reduce vibration Adverse effects on 27 historic properties <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Memorandum of Agreement between FTA, NICTD, and Indiana State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) Coordination with Indiana Landmarks Visual changes at station area <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordination with Michigan City station design, landscaping, and architectural styles

Section 4(f)

Section 4(f) of the US Department of Transportation Act of 1966 applies to historic properties and publicly owned parklands and trails. *De minimis* impacts are minor impacts that do not adversely impact the features or attributes of the resource.

There are *de minimis* impacts to two trails

- Calumet Trail to be relocated under the State Route 49 bridge but would remain open and accessible at all times
- The Porter Brickyard Segment of the Dunes Kankakee Trail would be relocated near Mineral Springs Road, but would remain open and accessible at all times

There are adverse effects to 27 historic properties. The Memorandum of Agreement developed with the FTA, NICTD, and SHPO will identify mitigation measures to resolve the impacts.

Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act

There will be 27 adverse effects to historic properties. A Memorandum of Agreement developed with the FTA, NICTD, and SHPO will identify mitigation measures to resolve the effects. The mitigation measures will be included in the decision document.

- NICTD will incorporate the façade of South Shore Station building into the new station, subject to engineering and financial feasibility
- NICTD will hire professionals to complete Historic American Building Surveys prior to demolition
- New station building will include an exhibit focusing on the history of the South Shore Line
- NICTD will install streetscaping and an interpretive panel for the Franklin Street Commercial and Elston Grove Historic Districts

Total Estimated Project Cost is \$312M	
Federal Core Capacity (50%)	\$156M
Non Federal Share (50%)	\$156M
Breakdown of Non Federal Share:	
St. Joseph County	\$18.25M
LaPorte County/Michigan City	\$18.25M
NW Indiana RDA on behalf of Lake and Porter Counties	\$3M annually over 30 yrs*
State of Indiana	\$6M annually over 30 yrs*


*Includes financing costs


Comments on the Double Track NWI Project?

We encourage you to provide your input. The formal commenting period is open through October 23, 2017. Responses to comments will be provided in the NEPA decision document.

How to Submit Comments:

 Provide comment to the court reporter or fill out a comment form today

 Submit an online comment form: www.doubletrack-nwi.com

 Email your comments to: DoubleTrackNWI@nictd.com

 Mail your comments to: South Shore Line, Attn: Double Track NWI, 33 East U.S. Highway 12, Chesterton, IN 46304