



**NORTHERN INDIANA
COMMUTER TRANSPORTATION DISTRICT**

33 E. U.S. HIGHWAY 12 • CHESTERTON, IN 46302-3514

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**NORTHERN INDIANA COMMUTER TRANSPORTATION DISTRICT
BOARD MEETING**

January 25, 2008

Northern Indiana Commuter Transportation District

33 East U.S. Highway 12

Chesterton, IN 46304-3514

Public Session – 10:00 a.m. (CST)

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

| | | |
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| Mark Catanzarite | Christine Cid | David Wickland |
| Mark Yagelski | Dennis A. Burke | Richard Vulpitta |
| Robert Kovach | Barbara Huston | William Carmichael |
| John Evans | Frances DuPey | |

OTHERS PRESENT:

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| Roy G. Benedict | Carl Biek |
| Bill Warrick – Ogden Dunes | Michael Guljas – St. Joseph Cy Airport |
| Mel Griem – Ogden Dunes | Paul F. Willer – Passenger |
| Paulene Poparad – Chesterton Tribune | Greg Price – Passenger |
| Richard Wotkun – Retired BRC | Kay Harmon – UTU |
| Celina Weatherwax – U.S. Senator Lugar | Robert J. Kehoe – UTU |
| Cynthia Pierce – Crowe Chizek | Anthony Wojasinski – UTU |

STAFF PRESENT:

| | | | |
|-----------------|----------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| Gerald R. Hanas | Joe Crnkovich | Greg Yovich | Mary Jo Dybel |
| John N. Parsons | Michael Harris, Esq. | Robert Byrd | Randy Welch |
| Keith Casey | Robert Bernth | Boris Matakovic | Ruby B. Peterson |
| | | Jim Mezo | |

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Catanzarite, Chairman of the Board, called the meeting to order. He said at the Executive Session, the Board discussed matters of pending litigation. He welcomed back John Evans, Porter County Commissioner and Christine Cid, Lake County Council. A moment to reflect on our armed services personnel was observed. Mr. Catanzarite asked that those present stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2008

An election was held to elect Board officers for the year 2008:

Ms. DuPey nominated Mr. Yagelski to be the Chairman. All agreed.
 Ms. Huston nominated Mark Catanzarite to be the Vice Chairman. All agreed.
 Mr. Catanzarite nominated Ms. Huston to be the Secretary. All agreed.
 Ms. Huston nominated Ms. DuPey to be the Treasurer. All agreed.

3. MEETING MINUTES: November 30, 2007

Mr. Carmichael motioned to accept the public session and executive Board minutes for November 30, 2007. Ms. Huston made a second to the motion. The motion was approved.

4. CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

a. Signal/Catenary

Mr. Hanas said the Signal/Catenary project is progressing well. Divane is the contractor for the signals and Phases 1 and 2 (Chicago to Michigan City) are complete.

b. Storage Track

Mr. Hanas said the storage track in the Michigan City yard facility will accommodate the new cars that are on order. Mr. Yovich, NICTD's Assistant Chief Mechanical Officer, is working on the new cars contract. The cars are on schedule for delivery beginning the end of November 2008, completing delivery the end of February 2009. Mr. Hanas said the possibility of having more rush hour trains as the new equipment arrives will be discussed at a later date. The new cars are expected to be put in service in March or April of 2009

c. Metra Trackage Rights

Mr. Hanas reported NICTD is negotiating a new trackage rights agreement for the 14 miles NICTD operates on Metra tracks (from Kensington, 115th Street through to Millennium Station at Randolph Street, Chicago). The big issue is determining the amount of electricity attributable to NICTD service. Metra has had some substantial increases in their electricity bill and would like NICTD to have a fair share in paying the bill. NICTD has engaged a consultant to determine NICTD's power usage. A 35% increase to NICTD's trackage rights agreement is being requested by Metra.

5. PROPOSAL REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Mr. Welch said the Mechanical Department has requested proposals for Digital Video Recorder systems to be installed in all of NICTD's passenger cars [272 cameras that will be mounted in NICTD's 68 passenger cars]. The purpose of the systems is to provide additional security measures for both NICTD as well as the passengers. The systems will record the forward view of the cars as they are moving along the track as well as the interior passenger compartments. In addition, these systems also have the ability to record activities within the yard as the cameras are activated by movement that is within the system's field of vision. NICTD's Transit Police, with the installation of the optional equipment, would also have the ability to view the interior of the cars from the safety of their patrol cars within a specified distance.

The request for the Digital Video Recording systems ran as legal advertisements in the newspapers throughout the region. A total of 9 packets were requested and 2 proposals were received:

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|----------------------|--------------|
| Railhead Corporation | \$690,126.00 |
| Apollo Video | \$751,637.00 |

The criteria for the DVR was: adherence to technical specifications (50%); Cost (40%); Delivery (10%). The proposal packets were evaluated by four NICTD personnel. Railhead submitted less than 1% DBE amount. This project is funded by a Homeland Security grant.

NICTD's Engineering Department reviewed the proposals and technical specifications and has deemed the recommended low proposer as a competent vendor. The apparent low proposer was interviewed to determine that they understood the scope of work and that they had the appropriate staff to complete the project. The low proposer was the supplier of a similar system to Metra in Chicago. The Engineering estimate for this project is \$800,000.00. However, the labor is not included in the cost and it is expected that the remainder of the money will be required to install the DVR's.

The Staff recommends that Railhead Corporation, 10721 South Western, Chicago, IL, be awarded the Digital Video Recording System Contract in the amount of \$760,126.00, which includes an additional 10% for change orders, if required. The Staff is requesting that the NICTD Board grant the General Manager the authority to issue a Notice to Proceed for the Digital Video Recording Systems at his discretion.

Mr. Welch added this does not include the cameras needed for the 14 new double-decker passenger cars that are now being built in Japan and due for final assembly in Milwaukee. There will be another DHS grant in the future to cover cameras for the new cars.

Mr. Welch said there would be 4 cameras installed in each passenger car enhancing security by recording interior and exterior activity and at all grade crossings, especially in the case of an accident. It is hoped that the motion sensors will stave off vandalism.

Mr. Catanzarite made the motion to award Railhead Corporation of Chicago, IL, the contract for the Digital Video Recorder Systems in the amount of \$763,126.00 and grant the General Manager the authority to issue a Notice to Proceed at his discretion. Mr. Burke made a second to the motion. The motion was approved.

6. RIDERSHIP REPORT

Mr. Hanas showed a slide that reviewed the rush hour on-time performance in 2007 which was 90% overall. A chart showed that the largest percentage of delays were caused by Metra followed by signal problems.

January 2008 was a particularly rough month for NICTD. There were 4 automobile incidents, 1 weather-related incident [broken rail from cold temps], 4 Metra incidents, and 2 NICTD signal equipment-related problems.

Mr. Parsons said the ridership at the end of 2007 was slightly down from 2006, which was a banner year. The weather over the 2007 Christmas/New Years holiday was bad and appeared to negatively impact ridership. The ridership change overall of 2007 compared to 2006 showed an increase of just over 1%. There were 4,245,922 passengers in 2007, the highest annual total since 1957. Of the 12,738 NICTD trains that operated in 2007, 87% of rush-hour

trains were on time compared to 90.8% in 2006. A total of 93.1% of the late trains arrived within 10 minutes last year and 96% arrived within 15 minutes.

Mr. Parsons said Metra will be increasing fares by 10% for Hegewisch on February 1, 2008. Illinois is also implementing free rides for seniors in the RTA service area. Details are still being worked out with Metra.

7. OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Hanas expressed appreciation to U.S. Representative Visclosky for securing \$5 million for catenary and signal work. Representative Visclosky also has committed to securing \$500 million in federal funds for NICTD's proposed \$1 billion West Lake service expansion from Hammond to Lowell and Valparaiso.

Indiana Representative Dobis has submitted a bill in the General Assembly to provide local funding for the expansion of service.

Regarding another bill allowing Indiana citizens to carry handguns on public facilities, NICTD wishes to be exempt from that law.

8. ADJOURN

Mr. Yagelski called for a motion to adjourn. It was so moved. The next NICTD Board Meeting is scheduled for Friday, March 28, 2008.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Huston, Board Secretary