



**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  
November 30, 2007**

**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:**

Mark Catanzarite	Robert Harper	David Wickland
Mark Yagelski	Dennis A. Burke	Richard Vulpitta
Robert Kovach	Barbara Huston	William Carmichael

Will Smith and Frances DuPey were unable to attend.

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Roy G. Benedict	Erik Potter – Post Tribune
Bill Warrick – Ogden Dunes	Richard R. Gill – Shore Line
Wilma Warrick – Ogden Dunes	Bill Sheldrake – Policy Analytics
Paulene Poparad – Chesterton Tribune	John Schalliol – South Bend Airport
Cynthia Pierce – Crowe Chizek	Richard Wotkun – Retired BRC
Celina Weatherwax – U.S. Senator Lugar	John R. Langowski – Harsco Track Tech.
Heather Augustine – Times	

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Gerald R. Hanas	Joe Crnkovich	Greg Yovich	Mary Jo Dybel
John N. Parsons	Charles Lukmann, Esq.	Robert Byrd	Skip Smith
Keith Casey	Robert Bernth	Chris Beck	Ruby B. Peterson
Randy Welch	Robert Griffin		

**1. CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE TO THE FLAG**

Mr. Catanzarite, Chairman of the Board, called the meeting to order. He said the Executive Board discussed matters of pending litigation. A moment to reflect on our armed services personnel was observed. Mr. Catanzarite asked that those present stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

**2. MEETING MINUTES: September 28, 2007**

Mr. Carmichael motioned to accept the public session and executive Board minutes for September 28, 2007. Mr. Wickland made a second to the motion. The motion was approved.

**3. CONSTRUCTION AND FINANCE UPDATE**

**a. 2008 Business Plan**

Mr. Hanas said the 2008 Business Plan anticipates an operating expenditure of approximately \$38 million and receipts of \$18.3 million in operating revenue. The shortfall will be made up by federal, state and other revenue sources. In summary, the plan anticipates:

Operating conditions similar to 2007 – a harsher winter may strain NICTD’s projected expenses and exacerbate passenger revenue.

No change in weekday service levels but a possible change in weekend service to address on-time performance concerns.

No fare increase is contemplated at this time. Metra has adopted a provisional 10% fare increase that would take effect if the Illinois General Assembly fails to provide additional operating assistance. The increase would apply to the Hegewisch Station.

Mr. Hanas said NICTD plans to begin installing a new closed-circuit video monitoring system in its passenger cars.

Mr. Hanas outlined the capital program. The first of 14 new double-decker passenger cars will begin arriving in late 2008. He explained the possibility of a bypass track at the Kensington interlocking where NICTD joins the Metra tracks in Illinois. This is pending final design approvals from Metra and Canadian National. Mr. Hanas spoke of completing the design/build of Phase 1 of the new overhead power distribution system between Gary and MP 75. NICTD continues annual tie replacement (including selective undercutting), bridge deck and grade crossing improvement programs.

Mr. Yagelski motioned to accept the 2008 Business Plan. Ms. Huston made a second to the motion. The motion was approved.

**b. Construction Update**

Mr. Hanas said the Centralized Traffic Control (CTC) construction from Michigan City [Power Siding East] to Kensington should be done by the end of 2007. Catenary renewal is taking place at night and on weekends. There is a lot less weight hanging over the tracks now.

**4. BIDS REVIEW AND APPROVAL**

Mr. Smith summarized that each of the following bids were advertised in the same publications and all will recommend that the Board grant the General Manager the authority to issue a Notice to Proceed at his discretion.

Mr. Smith also stated that it was determined that all necessary forms and requirements have been submitted and were approved by the appropriate NICTD staff and were found to be within the guidelines set forth by the Federal Transit Administrations associated with all the bids that are being recommended at this meeting.

**a. Embankment Construction – Michigan City Coach Yard**

Mr. Smith said the Maintenance of Way Department requested bids for embankment construction of ground work for a new passenger coach storage yard in Michigan City, IN. This project is necessary for the storage of the 14 new passenger coaches currently in manufacture.

A total of 23 packets were requested for the embankment construction project prior to the bid opening. Five bids were received:

<b>\$426,487.90</b>	<b>Oselka Construction, Union Pier, MI</b>
\$472,893.43	E&L Paving, Michigan City, IN
\$498,296.58	Rieth-Riley Construction, Gary, IN
\$569,800.00	Gariup Construction, Gary, IN
\$652,667.00	Superior Construction, Gary, IN

Oselka Construction has submitted \$43,323.00 or 10.2% DBE amount.

The staff recommended that Oselka Construction, P.O. Box 253, Union Pier, MI, 49129, be awarded the Embankment Construction in the amount of \$426,487.90.

Mr. Wickland made the motion to award Oselka Construction of Union Pier, MI, the contract for the embankment construction project in the amount of \$426,487.90 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.

**b. Track Material – Rail**

Mr. Smith said the Maintenance of Way Department has requested bids for track material [rail] to be used in the 2008 maintenance season.

A total of 4 packets were requested for rail – 9 strings of 1,600' [14,400 lineal feet] prior to the bid opening. Two bids for rail were received:

<b>L. B. Foster, Oak Brook, IL</b>	<b>\$321,264.00</b>	<b>\$22.31 / lin. ft.</b>
Progress Rail Services, Woodridge, IL	\$352,800.00	\$24.50 / lin. ft.
L. B. Foster has submitted zero DBE.		

The staff recommended that L. B. Foster, through its office located at Oak Brook, IL, be awarded the 2008 maintenance year contract for delivery of rail in the amount of \$321,264.00.

Ms. Huston made the motion to award L. B. Foster out of Oak Brook, IL, the contract for the delivery of rail in the amount of \$321,264.00 and grant the General Manager the authority to issue a Notice to Proceed at his discretion. Mr. Carmichael made a second to the motion. The motion was approved.

**c. Track Material – Ties**

Mr. Smith said the Maintenance of Way Department has requested bids for track material [ties] to be used in the 2008 maintenance season.

A total of 8 packets were requested for ties prior to the bid opening. Three bids and one no-bid for ties were received.

<b>Cross Ties</b>		Tangent Rail	Missouri Tie	<b>Burke-Parsons-Bowlby</b>
Quantity	Type	Terre Haute, IN	Reynolds, MO	Ripley, WV
3,800	#4 Ties	\$146,452.00	\$155,420.00	<b>\$141,816.00</b>
6,000	Grade 5 Ties	263,160.00	264,000.00	<b>263,340.00</b>
60	9' Switch Ties	2,821.20	2,934.00	<b>2,922.00</b>
35	10' Switch Ties	1,797.60	1,902.25	<b>1,894.20</b>
30	11' Switch Ties	1,671.00	1,836.00	<b>1,785.60</b>
30	12' Switch Ties	1,800.90	2,004.00	<b>1,949.10</b>
30	13' Switch Ties	2,141.10	2,262.00	<b>2,146.20</b>
30	14' Switch Ties	2,301.00	2,437.50	<b>2,311.20</b>
25	16' Switch Ties	2,259.50	2,321.25	<b>2,226.00</b>
		<u>\$424,404.30</u>	<u>\$435,117.00</u>	<b><u>\$420,390.30</u></b>

Burke-Parsons-Bowlby Corporation submitted a 10.8% DBE amount. NICTD's Engineering Department has reviewed the bids and technical specifications and has deemed the recommended low bidders as competent vendors. The average price increase adjusted for past purchase is 4.46%. This increase appears to be fair and reasonable.

The staff recommended that Burke-Parsons-Bowlby of Ripley, WV, be awarded the 2008 maintenance year contract for delivery of ties in the amount of \$420,390.30

Mr. Burke made the motion to award Burke-Parsons-Bowlby of Ripley, WV, the contract for the delivery of ties in the amount of \$420,390.30 and grant the General Manager the authority to issue a Notice to Proceed at his discretion. Mr. Yagelski made a second to the motion. The motion was approved.

**d. Track Material – Ballast**

Mr. Smith said the Maintenance of Way Department has requested bids for track material [ballast] to be used in the 2008 maintenance season.

A total of 4 packets were requested for ties prior to the bid opening. The advertisement resulted in the delivery of 1 bid from Vulcan Materials, Lombard, IL:

Vulcan Materials		Cost Per Ton	Number of Tons	Total
#3 Limestone		17.50	15,000	\$ 252,500.00
#8 Limestone		19.50	400	7,800.00
#53 Limestone		15.00	400	6,000.00
				\$ 276,300.00

Vulcan Materials Corporation, 747 East 22<sup>nd</sup> Street, Lombard, IL, submitted the only bid for delivery from its Francesville, IN quarry. Vulcan Materials submitted a 54% DBE amount.

Mr. Smith said that NICTD’s Engineering Department has reviewed the bids and technical specifications and has deemed the recommended low bidders as competent vendors. The average price increase adjusted for past purchases is 14.1%. Virtually all this increase is due to the increased cost of fuel. Based on this analysis, this increase appears to be fair and reasonable.

The Staff recommended that Vulcan Materials Corporation, Lombard, IL, be awarded the 2008 maintenance year contract for delivery of ballast in the amount of \$276,300.00.

Ms. Huston made the motion to award Vulcan Materials Corporation of Lombard, IL, the contract for the delivery of ballast in the amount of \$276,300.00 and grant the General Manager the authority to issue a Notice to Proceed at his discretion. Mr. Yagelski made a second to the motion. The motion was approved.

**e. Track Equipment – Production Tamper**

Mr. Smith said the Maintenance of Way Department has requested bids for track equipment [production tamper] to be used in the maintenance of track bed.

A total of 4 packets were requested prior to the bid opening. One bid was received from Harsco Track Technologies, West Columbia, SC for \$725,585.00. They submitted a .5% DBE amount.

The Staff recommended that Harsco Track Technologies, West Columbia, SC, be awarded the contract for delivery of a production tamper in the amount of \$725,585.00.

Mr. Burke made the motion to award Harsco Track Technologies, West Columbia, SC, the contract for delivery of a production tamper in the amount of \$725,585.00 and grant the General Manager the authority to issue a Notice to Proceed at his discretion. Mr. Carmichael made a second to the motion. The motion was approved.

**f. Track Equipment – Tie Inserter/Remover**

Mr. Smith said the Maintenance of Way Department has requested bids for track equipment [tie inserter/remover] to be used in the maintenance of track bed.

A total of 4 packets were requested prior to the bid opening. Three bids were received:

<b>Nordco, Oak Creek, WI</b>	<b>\$260,835.00</b>
North American Equipment, Nicholasville, KY	\$261,735.00
Harsco Track Technologies, West Columbia, SC	\$354,425.00

The Staff recommended that Nordco, Oak Creek, WI, be awarded the contract for delivery of a tie inserter/remover in the amount of \$260,835.00.

Mr. Wickland made the motion to award Nordco, Oak Creek, WI, the contract for delivery of a tie inserter/remover in the amount of \$260,835.00 and grant the General Manager the authority to issue a Notice to Proceed at his discretion. Ms. Huston made a second to the motion. The motion was approved.

#### **4. RIDERSHIP REPORT**

Mr. Parsons said that NICTD's ridership over the Thanksgiving weekend was down approximately 5% over 2006. South Bend ridership was up over the same period of time. NICTD expects to carry approximately 4.2 million passengers this year.

Mr. Parsons said all ticket offices will be open on Saturday to handle the additional passenger traffic. Additional train service also: Train 502 out of Gary and Train 504 out of Portage/Ogden Dunes. These will be shadow trains, which means they will be traveling within the same window as the regularly scheduled train for that slot. An extra eastbound train will be leaving Millennium Station at Randolph Street at 5:30 p.m. and terminate at Michigan City.

Mr. Parsons said NICTD will be monitoring ridership to see if there is a need to keep the ticket agents open on Saturdays. The \$1 surcharge will be suspended during the holiday season.

#### **6. OTHER BUSINESS**

##### **a. Auditor Approval**

Mr. Casey requested approval from the Board to engage the accounting firm of Crowe Chizek for \$80,500.00 to perform an annual audit. This is the fourth year out of a 5-year commitment.

Mr. Carmichael made the motion to engage the accounting firm of Crowe Chizek for \$80,500.00 to perform an annual audit. Mr. Kovach made a second to the motion. The motion was approved.

#### **7. ADJOURN**

Mr. Catanzarite called for a motion to adjourn. It was so moved. The next NICTD Board Meeting is scheduled for Friday, January 25, 2008.

Respectfully submitted,  
Barbara Huston, Board Secretary