



**DISTRIBUTED**  
TCRM 10-26-15

To: Town Council  
From: Dustin Anderson  
Date: October 26, 2015  
Regarding: Council Follow Up Questions

*At Your Service*

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During the course of the October 12<sup>th</sup> meeting, members of Council asked a number of questions that staff were not able to accurately answer at the spur of the moment. In an effort to increase transparency and responsiveness, this memorandum will attempt to address those queries.

I would like to thank Tony Torres, Greg Vitale, Bev Paris, and Gina Darnell for their expertise and assistance in compiling these answers.

**Regarding Ash Tree Removal and Replacement:**

*“Is it possible to send the notification and replacement letter to the affected resident prior to the removal of the tree?”*

Letters are indeed sent out prior to removal. Residents are given the option to select a tree from an approved list of species suitable to be street trees – or, conversely, have the opportunity to indicate that no replacement is desired.

*“Who was the previous ash tree removal vendor?”*

Erwin Tree Care had the contract for Ash tree removal for summer of 2013, fall 2013 and fall 2014. Apparently there have been changes in their management and as a result they did not send a quote.

Outdoor Tree Service won the contract for the tree removal along the levee in fall 2013.

*“How many ash trees are there left to remove?”*

In July the Town had 813 Ash trees remaining in streets and parks. This fall we are taking down 136 street trees and 113 park trees with a contractor, and Town crews are removing 56 smaller Ash trees (total 305 removals). That leaves 508 Ash trees. Of those, we know 81 are being treated by residents, leaving 427 that may succumb. Two hundred seventy eight (278) of those are still in good condition as a result, we are unaware of additional Ash trees that be under treatment by residents.

It is likely we will have 150 Ash trees, mostly size 6"-12", to remove in 2016 with a cost similar to this years, rough estimate \$20,000, less if Town crews take smaller trees down. The rest can be monitored to see if they decline in future years.



Ash tree removal costs are declining, but there is still a back log of sites to replant.

**On the West Lake Extension:**

*“When will there be more public hearings for residents to attend?”*

Monday, November 9, 2015

6 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Protsman Elementary School

1121 Harrison Avenue Dyer, Indiana 46311

Tuesday, November 10, 2015

6 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Washington Irving Elementary School

4727 Pine Avenue Hammond, Indiana 46327

Thursday, November 12, 2015

6 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Eads Elementary School

8000 Jackson Avenue Munster, Indiana 46321

Residents of any jurisdiction may attend any of these sessions to listen and provide feedback. Additionally, there will be a public officials meeting here in Munster on November 9 from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. that Council and other elected and appointed individuals are invited to.

The letter from NICTD is found attached to this memorandum.

**Regarding the Obelisk:**

*“How much would it cost to build the whole thing from scratch?”*

A proposal was solicited from Mr. Tom Rogan. In that proposal – which is found attached – a number of materials and respective costs are presented. It is important to remember that when dealing with this kind of stone for this kind of project cost does not have a direct correlation with quality. Rather, cost is more accurately a function of the scarcity of the material in question.

The build cost to build new would be between \$55,700 and \$62,200. These prices reflect the most durable and affordable materials. This includes the cost of construction for a new base. To carefully remove the limestone from the existing obelisk would be an additional \$5,000.

It does not include the cost of demolition to the concrete within the existing monument, nor the removal of the flags, landscaping etc. Town employees are capable of completing that work.

While no lifespan was guaranteed, Mr. Rogan did alluded to the fact that the existing limestone obelisk lasted 40 years and it would have lasted a lot longer had the frame been built of a higher quality. If erected unsealed like the current obelisk, granite would last approximately 10 years longer than limestone. However, Rogan Granite would seal the edges as proposed and we can expect the granite to last 20-30 years longer (minimum) instead of 10 years longer. Also, the sealing would prevent moisture from reaching the frame. The frame should also last as long as the stone this time around.



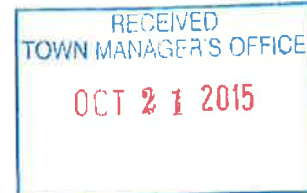
**NORTHERN INDIANA  
COMMUTER TRANSPORTATION DISTRICT**

33 E. U.S. HIGHWAY 12 • CHESTERTON, IN 46304-3514

PHONE: 219.926.5744 • FAX: 219.929.4438

October 19, 2015

Dustin Anderson, Town Manager  
Town of Munster Indiana  
1005 Ridge Road  
Munster, Indiana 46321



**RE: West Lake Corridor Project Public Workshops**

Dear Mr. Anderson:

The Northern Indiana Commuter Transportation District (NICTD) is hosting three public workshops and one workshop for public officials and agencies. **You are invited to attend the public officials and agency meeting that will be held Monday, November 9, 2015, 2 p.m. – 4 p.m. at the Munster Town Hall, 1005 Ridge Road, Munster, Indiana 46321.**

The purpose of these workshops is to provide an opportunity for our AECOM consultants to update attendees on project status, proposed stations and facilities, and next steps in the evaluation process. This workshop format will enable NICTD to gain a better understanding on issues and concerns through a facilitated, interactive setting. For your reference, should your schedule permit, the public workshops will be held:

- Monday, November 9, 2015, 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.  
Protsman Elementary School  
1121 Harrison Avenue  
Dyer, Indiana 46311
- Thursday, November 12, 2015, 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.  
Eads Elementary School  
8000 Jackson Avenue  
Munster, Indiana 46321
- Tuesday, November 10, 2015, 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.  
Washington Irving Elementary School  
4727 Pine Avenue  
Hammond, Indiana 46327

We would appreciate hearing if you're planning on attending the public officials and agency meeting in Munster on November 9. Please call Lisa Johnson at 219-926-5744 ext 308 or drop us a confirming note through our project website. We look forward to seeing you on the 9<sup>th</sup>. For more information on this project, we invite you to visit the project website, [www.nictdwestlake.com](http://www.nictdwestlake.com).

Sincerely,

John N. Parsons  
Project Manager

As part of this proposal, Rogan Granite will provide an etched granite plaque to identify the obelisk. The wording would be provided by you and your staff.

We have gone to our suppliers and requested pricing on seven different types of stone. (Samples for each of the granites are provided) We believe that preliminary estimates for completing a new obelisk at a site near the Town Hall utilizing each of these stone types are as follows:

1. Limestone	\$55,700
2. Light Gray Granite	\$62,200
3. Rose Like Vermillion Granite	\$67,000
4. Barre or Missouri Red Granite	\$72,400
5. Dakota Granite	\$79,250
6. Ebony Mist (American Black) Granite	\$79,720
7. Black Granite	\$83,700

Please note that the above values do not include any activity relative to the existing obelisk. If you would like Rogan Granite to remove the rest of the limestone from the existing obelisk we would do that for an additional five thousand dollars. This price would not include the removal of the concrete inside of the existing obelisk, its foundation, plantings, and the fill around them. We could, if you desired, submit pricing for this work in our final pricing to you.

Thank you for this opportunity to serve you. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Very Truly Yours;



Thomas R. Rogan  
President

