

RESOLUTION 2023

A RESOLUTION REGARDING THE TOWN OF MUNSTER'S PREFERENCES TOWARD THE NICTD COMMUNTER RAIL STATION AT RIDGE ROAD AND MANOR AVENUE

WHEREAS, The Northern Indiana Commuter Transit District (NICTD) intends to extend service south through Hammond, Munster, and Dyer; and,

WHEREAS, NICTD has conducted preliminary engineering that included ridership models that optimize station locations in each respective community; and,

WHEREAS, That preliminary engineering determined that two stations will be placed in the Town of Munster – one in the vicinity of the intersection of Ridge Road and Manor Avenue and another at border of the Town of Munster and the Town of Dyer; and,

WHEREAS, The extension of a commuter railway line and placement of two stations will require the acquisition of privately held property to accommodate construction of the rail line, platform, and parking facilities; and,

WHEREAS, The placement of a commuter railway station will represent a significant change to the current neighborhoods by way of increased noise, light, and traffic among other factors; and,

WHEREAS, Some residents calling themselves the Concerned Families of the West Lake Corridor proposed a resolution to Town Council that articulated their acute dissatisfaction with the idea of commuter rail in principle and the placement of a station in the vicinity of Ridge Road and Manor Avenue in particular; and,

WHEREAS, Council entertained this resident-driven resolution and received comment from the public at their February 6th regular meeting and decided that further study and comment was necessary before any subsequent action would be forthcoming; and,

WHEREAS, Council hosted work study meetings that invited the public to provide comment, ask questions, and receive information from NICTD staff as well as Town staff on February 10th and February 22nd; and,

WHEREAS, These additional comments and interactions have informed Council's understanding;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Town Council of the Town of Munster, Lake County, Indiana, that NICTD shall in the process of engineering, planning, and locating the station in the vicinity of Ridge Road and Manor Avenue and where applicable also at Munster Main Street:

1. Locate the station area to the North of Ridge Road.
2. If in the event there is an engineering necessity that requires the station area to be placed south of Ridge Road, NICTD should minimize to the fullest extent possible the number of residential properties that will have to be acquired to that end.
3. If in the event all homeowners to the east of the Monon tracks, south of South Street, west of Harrison, and North of Briar are willing to sell their property and if NICTD is able to articulate a demonstrated need to the FTA to acquire those properties and NICTD secures funding for the purchase the Town has no objections to NICTD making that transaction.
4. Complete a traffic study to aid in the effective implementation of Item 5 herein as well as to facilitate the safe passage of pedestrians and cyclists in the station area.
5. Configure the station area ingress and egress in a manner that ideally would limit access to Ridge Road and eliminate one of the three traffic lights between the easternmost Harrison Avenue and Manor Avenue.

6. Forgo building a physical station structure in order minimize the footprint of the station area.
7. Maintain the fidelity and continuity of the Monon Bike path while ensuring consistent safe proximity to the constructed railway.
8. Ensure that any barrier to be placed be high enough to prohibit line of site into residential properties.
9. Operate the commuter train at a speed no greater than the posted speed limit in the residential areas it operates within.
10. Provide adequate vegetative screening that meets and exceeds the Town's zoning codes.
11. Retain as many mature trees as possible on any land that may be acquired.
12. Utilize directional lighting and sound to limit the impact to adjacent properties.
13. Clearly demarcate the parking areas by use of fencing that meets and exceeds the Town's zoning codes.
14. Construct safety barriers around any and all pedestrian crossings running perpendicular to the constructed railway.
15. Be it known that the Town of Munster will not utilize eminent domain powers to seize the privately owned property of one owner and sell, transfer, or otherwise convey that property to another private owner to facilitate Transit Oriented Development.
16. Make any design and operation principle applicable to the Ridge and Manor station and corridor also applicable to the Munster Main Street Station and corridor as well.
17. Construct a sidewalk on the west side of Alison Road from Jenna Drive to Megan Way.
18. Be it known that the Town of Munster does not at this time support the use of Margo Lane as a through street to any parking or transit oriented development.

RESOLVED AND ADOPTED, by the Town Council of the Town of Munster, Lake County, Indiana, this 20th day of March, 2017 by a vote of _____ in favor and _____ opposed.

**TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF
MUNSTER, LAKE COUNTY, INDIANA**

Joseph A. Simonetto, President

ATTEST:

David F. Shafer, Clerk-Treasurer