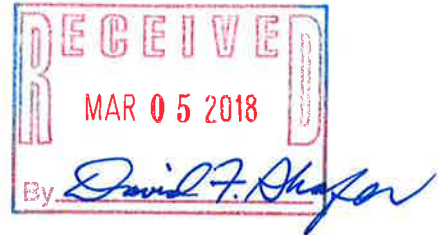




CONNECTING OPPORTUNITY

March 1, 2018

Mr. David Shafer
Munster Clerk/Treasurer
1005 Ridge Road
Munster, IN 46321-1849



RE: West Lake Corridor Project
Notice of Availability of Combined Final Environmental Impact Statement/ Record of
Decision and Section 4(f) Evaluation

Dear Mr. Shafer:

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and the Northern Indiana Commuter Transportation District (NICTD), in cooperation with the United States Army Corps of Engineers, have prepared a combined Final Environmental Impact Statement/Record of Decision and Section 4(f) Evaluation (FEIS/ROD) to evaluate the West Lake Corridor Project. The FEIS/ROD has been prepared pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 USC § 4332); Efficient Environmental Reviews for Project Decisionmaking (23 USC § 139); Council on Environmental Quality Regulations for Implementing the Procedures of the National Environmental Policy Act (40 CFR Parts 1500 – 1508); FHWA/FTA Environmental Impact and Related Procedures (23 CFR Part 771); Section 4(f) requirements (49 USC § 303 and 23 USC § 138) and regulations (23 CFR Part 774); and Clean Water Act (33 USC § 1251 et seq).

The West Lake Corridor Project is an approximately 9-mile southern extension of the existing NICTD South Shore Line (SSL) commuter rail service between Dyer and Hammond, Indiana. The Project would end just east of the Indiana–Illinois state line, where Project trains would connect with the SSL to travel north to Chicago. The West Lake Corridor Project includes four commuter rail stations and a maintenance facility/layover yard.

The combined FEIS/ROD for the West Lake Corridor Project is available for review online at: www.nictdwestlake.com/resources/. Hard copies of the FEIS/ROD are available for review at:

- Munster Branch of the Lake County Public Library, 8701 Calumet Ave, Munster, IN 46321
- Hammond Public Library, 564 State St, Hammond, IN 46320
- Dyer-Schererville Branch of the Lake County Public Library, 1001 W Lincoln Hwy, Schererville, IN 46375
- NICTD's Administrative Offices, 33 East U.S. Highway 12, Chesterton, IN 46304

If you would like a printed copy of the FEIS/ROD or a digital copy on a compact disc, please contact the project's automated hotline at (219) 250-2920 or email us at: project.email@nictedwestlake.com.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the West Lake Corridor Project was issued on December 16, 2016, with a public comment period occurring between December 16, 2016 and February 3, 2017. The DEIS evaluated the environmental, transportation, social, and economic impacts associated with the proposed transportation improvements in the West Lake Corridor, which would serve the Towns of Munster and Dyer, and the City of Hammond in Lake County, Indiana.

The combined FEIS/ROD includes discussions of changes since the DEIS, and responses to substantive comments received during the DEIS public comment period. Responses are in the form of clarifications and references to sections of the FEIS where issues raised are addressed, and factual corrections have been made. The ROD states FTA's decision, identifies the alternatives considered in reaching the decision, and describes the means to avoid, minimize, or mitigate impacts. Mitigation plans, including enforcement and monitoring commitments, are included in the ROD. The Final Section 4(f) Evaluation is included in the combined FEIS/ROD.

If you have any questions about the West Lake Corridor Project, please call (219) 250-2920 or email us at project.email@nictedwestlake.com.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Michael Noland".

Michael Noland
President
South Shore Line/NICTD