



Appendix H11. Verbal Court Reporter Public Comments Received on DEIS – January 17, 2017 Dyer



This page is intentionally left blank.

NORTHERN INDIANA COMMUTER TRANSPORTATION DISTRICT
WEST LAKE CORRIDOR PROJECT

JANUARY 17, 2017

6:00 P.M.

PROTSMAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
1121 HARRISON AVENUE, DYER, IN

Verbatim Stenographic and Transcription Services of
this Public Meeting provided by:

SUSAN PUDLO, RPR, CSR
Voice to Print Captioning
9800 Connecticut Drive
Crown Point, IN 46307
866-523-5359
www.voicetoprint.com
Kathy.cort@voicetoprint.com

MR. VANNOORT: My name is Kevin VanNoort, Comment ID No. 00432
V-A-N-N-O-O-R-T. I live in Dyer, Indiana,
Northgate Community right south of Main Street
there, 834 Jackson Court, Dyer, Indiana 46311.

I feel like the train extension coming down
south here would be an excellent idea,
especially on Main Street, the Munster/Dyer
station on Main Street. I actually ride the
South Shore every single day. People are
complaining that it's going to increase the
amount of traffic, and one lady even said it's
going to increase pollution. No more people
are going to be riding that train than they
already do. Instead of driving north and south
on Calumet Avenue or 41, they're just going to
be staying in a localized area.

Some people near that station in the
Northgate community will even be able to walk
there if they wanted to. The recent ice storm,
I was driving there to the Hammond station in
the morning, and I can't tell you how
incredibly dangerous it was during my
15-20 minute trip up north, and I feel it would
be much nicer to have local trains for Dyer
residents, Munster residents, Schererville

residents, than having to drive such a far distance.

One thing that would improve the South Shore line besides having more stations down south here would be switching to an engine-driven car. I know it's going through residential areas and that might not be the best option and that actually might add to pollution, but if people -- I did talk to somebody at tonight's meeting, and they were saying that they would be more happy if we didn't have the South Shore's old technology, I'm assuming it's the electric. Our disabled train during that ice storm got pushed back with an engine. I don't understand why that would really be an issue considering those trains normally go through or they normally get in and out of these areas pretty fast. They're not slow. With the exception of the -- the only thing that might be a problem is that large nightly train storage that's supposed to be in that location. That should be moved possibly further south where it's less populated into Dyer or St. John I feel like.

And there's no reason -- if we're already

coming this far down south, why not put a station to St. John too because I have a lot of friends who work downtown that drive in, and I feel it might benefit even more, and then they could put that big storage station down there and kill two birds with one stone. Good luck. I hope it gets built.

MS. BYRNE: Mary Byrne, B-Y-R-N-E, 541 Seminary Drive, Dyer, 219-865-2511.

Comment ID No. 00408

I'm concerned about the roundabout that appears at the corner of Seminary and Main Street because it's going to make my street like a super-thoroughfare with everybody spinning around in it. I was wondering if there's any possibility they could put a road from maybe Seminary itself and through that farm land to prevent it from coming down Seminary Drive.

MS. LUCATORTO: I'm Kim Lucatorto, 725 Blue Jay Way in Dyer, it's the Meadows subdivision. I'm pleased to see that the preferred choice right now is putting that layover station on the east side because if it was on the west side, it would impact our house a lot more.

Comment ID No. 00421

A couple things come to mind. First of

all, we really do not, absolutely do not want to see the roundabout that's proposed at Main Street, and it may be Seminary or Blue Jay Way, I'm not certain which street that is. We do not want to see that. We do not want to see that opening for cut-through traffic into and out of our subdivision. Right now the freight trains get backed up and stops and blocks Sheffield for a long time, sometimes it could be blocked for 15 minutes at a time. And that's going to automatically dump all that traffic into that roundabout down through our subdivision to cut around when the freight train itself is blocking the intersection, which happens quite frequently. That's a whole separate issue that has to be resolved elsewhere.

But also we understand there's a 1,100 car parking lot maximum, and that would also leave a potential of 1,100 cars cutting through our subdivision at times. Not that that's going to happen, but even one extra car coming through is one too many. And there's a variety of reasons for that, mostly it's safety and quiet of the neighborhood. It's a very nice, quiet

neighborhood. People respect each other and their property, and we just don't need to have people speeding through the neighborhood, which you know that will happen.

Also, on the east side of the version that is the preferred version right now, the layover tracks and that part of it does not seem to show any sort of landscaping or berms or anything like that on the west side of the parcel so that it would be helping to shield the Meadows subdivision that's there from any sort of extra sounds, sight and all that stuff, so I would like to see them put some landscaping and perhaps some berms and things like that so that it would lower the impact of both the sound and the visual part of that into the Meadows subdivision.

I'm going to defer to my husband, Lane Lucatorto at the same address.

MR. LUCATORTO: Hi, the one thing I would like to see because of the increased traffic that will probably be now on Sheffield/Columbia, whatever you want to call it, I would like to see the gates be -- what's the word -- Comment ID No. 00422

MS. LUCATORTO: Well, further south of the project right there near the layover station, the freight train and the Amtrak train go over

--

MR. LUCATORTO: I would like to have actual gates, not just, you know, flashers.

MS. LUCATORTO: They're just flashers now, there's no gates. It's a very bad intersection the way it's angled and everything, and with the way the sun hits it, it's possible you won't even see the lights at times dinging. That obviously is not part of this project because it's just a tad further south of where the layover station is. It bumps up, the property bumps up to that crossing.

MR. LUCATORTO: It's just that with the increased traffic, I think that's going to cause more issues.

MS. LUCATORTO: Right, because there's going to be so much more traffic on Sheffield and Columbia there, it would be very, very important if there would be a way to add gates to that railroad intersection.

And our phone number is 219-227-8667, and we'd be more than happy to talk to someone

about those ideas and thoughts if they would like to call us.

MS. EANES: My name is Pam Eanes, E-A-N-E-S. My address is 8416 Harrison Avenue in Munster, Indiana. I am opposed to the West Lake train coming in. That's number one.

Comment ID No. 00409

Number two: If the train comes in, the parking lot for Munster at the Ridge location/Ridge station is my back yard. I do not want a parking lot in my back yard. I don't want the congestion. I don't want the crime. I don't want the noise. I don't want the visual aspect of looking at a parking lot as opposed to looking right now at a farm field.

I would hope that NICTD would buy my property out if they are going to put the station at Ridge and the parking lot in my back yard, I'd rather be bought out. That's all.

MR. RIZO: My name is Ruben Rizo. My address is 8424 Harrison, Munster, Indiana. I'm against having the train on Ridge. I do not want a parking lot taking some of my yard or even looking at a parking lot in my back yard.

Comment ID No. 00427

I'd prefer them to buy me out or move the train. My phone number is 708-743-2525.

MS. EANES: Pam Eanes, second comment of the night. We were told that the train -- when he moved in, we were told the train station was going to be at Fisher, and now today we were told that it can't be at Fisher because it has to go up and over the freight lines that are there and that would put it on the second story, a train station. I think that's more feasible to put it at the second story instead of taking away residential property or putting a train station in the middle of a neighborhood. All my neighbors are upset by this. Thank you.

MS. FREDIANELLI: My name is Sherry Fredianelli, F-R-E-D-I-A-N-E-L-L-I. I live at 1249 Winterberry Lane in Schererville. I have been a South Shore rider since the 80s, and I would like this to start tomorrow, so I am here to express my support publicly. I think it's a tremendous thing. We have been waiting for this literally for decades, and I want our elected officials to do everything within their power to make sure that we do minimize the

Comment ID No. 00410

Comment ID No. 00413

environmental impacts and the impacts to everyday people, but that being said, sometimes, you know, you do have to sacrifice something for the greater common good, and I do firmly believe that this is for the greater common good, that we need this public transportation to this area. We're well under-served. I travel 14 miles every day to the Hegwish train station and have been doing that since I moved to Schererville 11 years ago, formerly living in Calumet City, and I was two miles from the train station, so I am very encouraged to see things proceeding and hope that they continue in a positive manner and that our officials should not be swayed by the few loud voices that will voice their displeasure because everything is not perfect. Not everything is always perfect, and as an adult, people need to recognize that and move accordingly.

MR. GARCIA: My name is Victor Garcia. I live at 2948 100th Street, Highland, Indiana 46320. I'm very excited about the West Lake Project. I think that the economic benefits of this project far outweigh any of the potential

Comment ID No. 00414

negatives. I do understand that there are significant negatives for the people whose homes are going to be impacted, but I feel the economic benefits outweigh, along with the mitigation of environmental impacts, so I am very excited to see this project go forward.

MS. JELCIC: My first name is Nevenka, N-E-V-E-N-K-A, last name Jelcic, J-E-L-C-I-C. I live on Seminary Drive, 601 Seminary Drive. So with the favorite option that they have right now, my concern is that the parking lot that they're going to build there is open right into Seminary Drive, which is a subdivision. That would cause a lot of traffic going right in front of my house and right through subdivision where kids are going on the bus and my grand kids, three, and it's very concerning to me. The noise, the speed, the traffic.

They should -- if it's going to happen that they have to build it right there, they should fence it off then where they'd have no traffic going through the subdivision. That's what I want to make a comment on. I wish they wouldn't build it at all right there because I moved here because I liked the open field and

Comment ID No. 00416

the open and quietness of the area, not to have train station, parking lots and all this.

MR. MICHALEK: My name is Herb Michalek, H-E-R-B, my last name is Michalek, M-I-C-H-A-L-E-K. I'm a resident of the Meadows in Dyer, and what I see is just overwhelming. The traffic is so densely populated now, to put a train station and a rail yard in an area where there are two major nursing homes, Hartsfield Village, Sheffield Manor, there's also a hospice area and a Catholic church where it's supposed to be a quiet area and treated like a hospital situation, to have that kind of traffic, that kind of train noise, train whistles, traffic, I can't understand it. The bottom line I'm not for this at all. 533 Seminary Drive.

Comment ID No. 00423

MR. JELCIC: Hi, my name is Nic Jelcic. I live at 116 Blue Jay Way, and I oppose the train station. I would like it to be blocked off and not be able to get into Seminary Drive. I live right over there, so I would not want traffic coming through. Thank you.

Comment ID No. 00417

MS. JOHNS: My name is Paula Johns, J-O-H-N-S, 1024 Royal Dublin Lane in Dyer. I

Comment ID No. 00418

have written a petition, and I'm going to be sending this in, and I'm concerned about the increased air pollution of possibly 1800 cars or more coming in. The fact that this air pollution is very difficult for the development of people with respiratory problems.

Cars are one of the worst pollutants that there is, and that's been established by the different EPA or EPE organizations. The noise pollution is another fact that we're going to be having. The train supposedly gives out 75 decibels of noise. If you combine that with the 55 decibels, that in itself is too much for the human ear and causes stress and annoyance and related illnesses of hearing loss, sleep disruption, and lost productivity.

I'm also concerned -- and these are all taken from the EPA's handbooks -- protecting water quality from urban runoff. Clean Water is Everyone's Business, another EPA document.

And we have a terrible problem with flooding. In 2007-2008 we had over, oh, combined probably \$60 million worth of damage, two lives were lost in this area, and not only that, but that washes into our water system.

We are in a Lake Michigan water shed coming from Illinois. It increases sediment, oil, grease, and toxic chemicals, pesticides from lawns and gardens, viruses, bacteria, and nutrients from pest waste, road salts, heavy metals from roof shingles, motor vehicles, thermal pollution from dark impervious surfaces such as streets, parking lots and roof tops and so forth and so on.

I'm terribly opposed to the displacement of the elderly people that are going to be displaced and the people in Munster. The elderly are mainly I think in Dyer. I'm opposed to the way that this has been "railroaded through" without public knowledge and public input.

I'm opposed to the fact that my tax dollars and most of the residents that I've talked to in Dyer are opposed to the fact that our tax dollars, county income tax portion and other taxes are going to fund this. I already have had taxes go up this year, and it's more to come.

I'm opposed to the definite visual pollution that's going to exist in Dyer and the

vibration pollution.

MS. ALLANDE-TARIN: My name is Cindy Allande-Tarin, the last name is A-L-L-A-N-D-E-dash Tarin, T-A-R-I-N. I live in the Meadows subdivision, 507 Rose Bush Lane in Dyer. Comment ID No. 00407

My concern is the traffic with the current infrastructure. I'm not sure if that's something that NICTD is addressing or concerned with or has met with any federal or even the Dyer Town Board. Basically that's my main concern.

MS. RODRIGUEZ: Lori Rodriguez, L-O-R-I, R-O-D-R-I-G-U-E-Z, 1542 Harrison Avenue. Sheffield, what they're going to do with Sheffield as far as are they going to widen it because I have a business right on Sheffield and I want to know how they are going to widen it because I'm worried about my business. That's it. Comment ID No. 00428

MS. JOHNS: Paula Johns, 1024 Royal Dublin, Dyer. I also would like to interject that I think there would be a better plan. As a realtor, I know the area pretty well around here, and there are some large plats of land Comment ID No. 00419

south of here, oh, south of 77th Street. I think it's sort of land locked, it's between 77th and 85th, and if the train would have gone out there, I don't think there would have been as much objection because it's not totally surrounded that I can see on the map by residential housing, schools, nursing homes and parks. There might be a few homes that might be affected, but I think it would be a more logical place to place it, if at all possible.

My particular concern is the safety of the children who go to Protsman School. They have to walk if they don't live over a mile away, so it's very dangerous. People who rush to get to the train may cut through right by the school.

I don't think that the pollution problem -- I do think that the pollution problem would be an extreme problem for the children with respiratory ailments such as asthma and allergies because they play in the park on Calumet Avenue and it sits two blocks from Main Street, and then, of course, the play yard and walking to and from school, so in particular the pedestrians and children.

There are three EPA documents that talk

about the dangers of near roadway air pollution. EPA 3420F14044, EPA 100-R-15-001 Best Practices for Reducing Near Road Pollution Exposure at Schools; and EPA Document 456/F-14-002 Air Quality Index. I took and signed up an air quality index, and I received from them on December 17th a moderate danger in this area where I live, and that is dangerous to some degree for people with respiratory problems, sensitive problems.

Some of the problems, health problems associated with air pollution: Cardiovascular disease, impaired lung development in children, pre-term and low birth weight for infants, childhood leukemia, and premature death.

And my father at 50 and my husband at 68 both died of premature death from lung disease.

EPA number 841-F-03-003, Protecting Water Quality from Urban Runoff. Clean Water is Everybody's Business. In 2007-2008 we had extreme flooding with two deaths in Northwest Indiana and well over -- I believe it was over \$50 million worth of damage, and I just wanted to make sure that the EPA document was quoted. I think I've already mentioned the attributes

of that were runoff. Thank you.

(Which were all the proceedings had
at such time and date.)

STATE OF INDIANA)
)
COUNTY OF LAKE)

I, SUSAN M. PUDLO, RPR, CSR, Notary Public
Within and for the County of Lake and State of
Indiana, do hereby certify that heretofore, to wit,
on the 17th day of January, 2017, that the
testimony given at the Public Meeting on the
Northern Indiana Commuter Transportation District
West Lake Corridor Project was stenographically
recorded and afterwards transcribed upon a computer
personally by me, and that the foregoing is a true
and correct transcript of said testimony.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my
hand and seal this 23rd day of January, 2017.

Notary Public
Lake County, Indiana



Comment Card

Name: DAN Engle

Hearing Date/Location: Prostman 11/17/17

Contact Info: (219) 864-0240

Comment: I am against this I personally seeing this bringing down current home values while using over 100 year old technology. Spending a billion dollars on technology that is already out dated isn't helping anyone. Train riders have been decreasing over the decades and this just creates

Continued 

More minimum wage jobs



Comment Card

Name: Judith ERICKSON

Hearing Date/Location: 1-17-17 Dyer

Contact Info: Jerickson1483@yahoo.com

Comment: STOP Round about which will allow Traffic to
go South on Seminary Drive! all Residential Traffic will
make the Neighborhoods DANGEROUS. Seminary Drive East to
Schiffel would need Traffic Lights. Schiffield AVE is
2 Lane + Cannot handle all the Traffic.

Continued 

Name: Darcy Gately

Hearing Date/Location: 1-16-11 Hammond - 3yee

Contact Info': D. Gately W ATT PLC / Darcy.Gately@ATT.net

FOR MURKIN/3yee MAIN STREET:

Comment: SUPPORT FOR HAMMOND MAINTENANCE FACILITY

SOUND BARRIERS SHOULD BE INCREASED AT ALL LAYOVER LOCATIONS TO MINIMIZE

IMPACT TO EXISTING RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY

SUPPORT HAMMOND ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS FOR STATION & LAYOVER - WEST OF RR

Continued 




Comment Card

Name: Tim Krajer

Hearing Date/Location: 1-17-17

Contact Info': _____

Comment: Why the Munster Station Its only 10 Blocks
from the Station in South Hammond And 5 min. to the
Dyer / Munster Station

Continued 

Name: PRISCILLA MEYERS

Hearing Date/Location: 1-17-17 DYER

Contact Info': priscilla.meyers47@gmail.com

Comment: A maintenance facility at the Dyer
location will destroy the beauty and
quietness of the area / neighborhood. I think
maintenance should all be kept in one
location at Hammond.

Continued 

Name: Donna Murray

Hearing Date/Location: Pretzman/Dyer/1/17/17

Contact Info': 219-688-5331 donna-murray18@yahoo.com

Comment: Father lives on Sheffield, mother was
put in Dyr Rehab so she could be across the street
from family home. How what kind of process will
take place when we have to move? How much time
will we have to move once our home is purchased?

Continued 



Comment Card

Name: Christine Reder

Hearing Date/Location: 1/17/17 Dyer

Contact Info': CR063065@AOL.com

Comment: Access ~~to~~ to Main Street parking in Dyer/
You should consider an entrance on the west side
of the lot so South Dyer ^{St. John,} Sank Village and Lynwood can
use Burnham Avenue. St. John + Dyer would come up
Hart Street to Rt. 30 west, go over bridge to avoid Canadian National!

Continued 

Crossing on Sheffield. Also would relieve traffic on Sheffield. It's only a two lane road that is already busy especially at Rt. 30. It also would bring Illinois \$'s since the next Metra Electric train is 20 minutes away for Sauk Village/Lynwood and parts of Crete.

① Don't like the fact that train stops @ Main Street — should go further south. And are 3 train stations in Hammond Really Necessary?


Name: Lilian Swenson

Hearing Date/Location: Dyer Protsman 1-17-17

Contact Info': liliswenson@gmail.com

Comment: Like the preferred design for Dyer/Mauster
Station. Live at Meadow Lake. We have an
entrance/exit onto seminary drive for 102 condos
Some concern about traffic implications. Important
do have good landscaping a plan to maintain it.

-over-

Continued 

The Andromeda station used to be an eyesore. Now it looks great. Need the same care for other additions to the community. May need traffic lights at Seminary & Sheffield if people start exiting parking lot down Seminary. ^{to Sheffield} Best to be prepared. It ~~that~~ ^{concerns} residents at Meadow Lake - the increased traffic. Otherwise I see it as a big plus. 😊

Name: Diane + Ed Traher

Hearing Date/Location: Dyer 6-17-17

Contact Info': dianeoward@comcast.net

Comment: How will this personally impact our property
640 Seminary Dr - AND How close will it be
To our Home. What is the economic justification
For extending the line From Munster to Dyer and the
Construction of maint. station AND PARKING Lot


Continued 

Name: Connee Trepton

Hearing Date/Location: Dyer Protsman / Jan 17, 2017

Contact Info': cktrepton228@hotmail.com / ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~
CUE11219 7434075

Comment: ① I believe the citizens of the Meadows ^{subdivision} would best be served by NO CONNECTION of Seminary Dr into the Parking Lot of the West (Preferred) Alternative. Actually, the East alternatives would be better for them. ② With all the vacant land IN MUNSTER, it seems it would be better —

Continued 

cheaper in the long run (demo, relocation, land costs, etc) -
to have train layover there, closer to the station,
rather than across "Main Street" and into the Dyer
triangle.

Name:

John Wagner

Hearing Date/Location:

1/17/17 Dyer

Contact Info':

Comment:

*This is the largest waste
of money that I have seen
in Dyer, we do not need another
train station, the one that we
have is not being used.*

Continued 

you think that putting in a parking
lot on Main Street is going
to bring in people and business.
I think you are not using
your heads, putting the station
further south makes some
sense, but not at main street.



Comment Card

Name: Helen Wheels

Hearing Date/Location: 1/17/2017

Contact Info':

Comment: NO NEW "HIDDEN" TAXES,
IMPACT FEES OR OTHER FEES, (IE
"STIFF TAX")

PG 18

Continued 