



News Release

For Immediate Release

September 26, 2014

**The Northern Indiana Commuter Transportation District (NICTD) Enters NEPA Scoping Period
for the West Lake Corridor Project***NICTD Announces Public Scoping Meeting on October 28, 2014*

CHESTERTON, IN... NICTD, in cooperation with the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), has initiated the environmental review process for the West Lake Corridor Project in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). NICTD is proposing the West Lake Corridor Project as a southern extension of the South Shore Line to reach high growth areas in central, southern, and western Lake County. The project would expand NICTD's service coverage between Northwest Indiana and the Chicago region, improve mobility and accessibility, and stimulate local job creation and economic development opportunities for Lake County.

The purpose of the environmental review process is to promote informed decision-making by considering the potential environmental and social impacts of the project. It is structured to encourage participation between government officials, agencies, private businesses, and citizens. NICTD must complete the environmental review process to receive potential federal funding for the project.

Scoping is the first step in the environmental review process under NEPA. It is an early and open process for the public and agencies to provide input on the project scope, purpose and need, and potential environmental issues. A 30-day scoping period will be conducted from October 13 to November 11, 2014. During this time period, a public scoping meeting will be held on October 28, 2014 from 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM at the Center for Visual and Performing Arts, 1040 Ridge Road, Munster, IN 46321. The public and interested stakeholders are encouraged to attend. The public can submit comments at the meeting, on line at www.nictdwestlake.com, by e-mail at project.email@nictdwestlake.com, or call our automated comment line 219-250-2920. Written comments can also be mailed to: NICTD West Lake Corridor Project, 33 East U.S. Highway 12, Chesterton, IN 46304. Comments must be submitted by November 11, 2014.

Mark Yagelski, NICTD Board Chairman stated, "this evaluation represents a unique opportunity to improve Indiana's access to Chicago and enhance our regional economy. This is the first step in a multi-year effort to secure federal funding for West Lake."

Media Contact:

John Parsons

Project Manager

Northern Indiana Commuter Transportation District

John.parsons@nictd.com

219-926-5744 ext 204