



- I. **Call to Order:** The RDA Board of Director's meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. CDT on Thursday, February 15, 2024 with Chairman Donald P. Fesko presiding.
- II. **Roll Call:** Present: Chairman Donald P. Fesko, Randy Palmateer, Chris Campbell, Alesia Pritchett, Phil Taillon, Milton Reed, and Jason Giliana. Seven members were present constituting a quorum.
- III. **General Public Comment:** *None*
- IV. **Consent Agenda:** Randy Palmateer motioned to approve the consent agenda with a second by Chris Campbell. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.
- V.
 1. **Minutes:** Board Meeting of December 14, 2023
 2. **Minutes:** Board Meeting of January 25, 2024
 3. **Reports:** MWBE Quarterly Expenditure Compliance (4th QRT 2023)
 4. **Reports:** Buy Indiana Quarterly Report (4th QRT 2023)
 5. **Reports:** Employment Quarterly Report By *County* (4th QRT 2023)
 6. **Reports:** Employment Quarterly Report By *Zip Code* (4th QRT 2023)
 7. **Reports:** Contractor Utilization Report (4th QRT 2023)
- VI. **Action Item:**
 1. **Budget:** Proposed 2024 Project Planning and Due Diligence: Bill Sheldrake reported on the RDA's 2024 Project Planning and Due Diligence budget which involves estimations for RDA attorneys, rail project, and TDD project consultants during the coming year. Bill also presented an estimated budget for the RDA's New Comprehensive Strategic Plan (NCSP) stating that this plan was previously discussed, and that the RDA is now in the process of finalizing the selection of firms that will assist the staff in implementing this initiative. The selection committee has been diligently working on the procurement process, and discussions with prospective firms are currently underway.

Milton reed motioned to approve the Proposed 2024 Project Planning and Due Diligence budget with a second by Chris Campbell. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.
- VII. **Project Status Review**
 - a. **Surface Transportation and Development:**

Update: Sherri Ziller updated the Board on both rail projects.



West Lake

- Design is 93% complete; train signals and operating systems and one major bridge remain in progress.
- Current construction is focused on utility relocation, bridges, station areas and retaining walls.
- Construction is 66% complete.
- An extended period of testing and commissioning is required between Construction Completion and Revenue Service.
- Revenue Service Date of May 1, 2025 is NICTD's current target.

Double Track

- Overall Construction is 97% complete.
- DT1 (*Main rail project*): Remaining work focused on overhead catenary system and systems testing activities have begun for areas west of Dune Park Station and expected to be complete by late February. Extended Track Outage is currently underway from Dune Park to Gary Metro, train service expected to resume April 2024.
- DT2 (*MC 11th Street Station*): The TOD developer encountered an underground sewer and is relocating it. *Once complete*, work on the parking garage will resume.
- DT3 (*Gary Miller Station*): Contract is 99% complete. Work remains on vestibule. Other parts of station are undergoing final testing and inspections.
- DT6 (*Positive Train Control*): Contract is 82% complete. Coordination continues with DT1 contractor.
- Revenue Service Date of *May 15, 2024* is NICTD's current target.

b. Transit Development Districts:

Update: Sherri Ziller reported that the RDA continues to move forward with the 2024 TDD boundaries with the participation of Valparaiso (downtown), South Bend (airport), and Beverly Shores and Pines (1 potential TDD). The team is also supporting communities to navigate development potential from a technical standpoint. The RDA continues to work with both existing and new administrations on TDD implementation.

Sherri also reported that the first 2024 meeting of the TDD steering committee is scheduled for February 21. It will be held virtually and if and if anyone is interested in participating, just contact Dave and he will send you a link.



President's Report:

Update: Sherri Ziller reported on the following:

1. **NCSP** – The RDA is in negotiations with several firms that have been preliminarily selected to assist on the New Comprehensive Strategic Plan (NCSP) - this involves determining the final scope of work for each firm and agreeing on fees. The RDA hopes to complete this process in the next 2 weeks and to complete the negotiation of contracts so that the work can begin. Sherri reported that she will keep the members of the Board updated on the progress as the RDA continues to get this important project moving.
2. **Convention Center Feasibility Study** – Sherri reported that the RDA continues to make progress and that Johnson Consulting continues to conduct the stakeholder interviews. Sherri reported that the RDA had a bus tour last Monday and visited all sites that have been identified in Lake County. Sherri stated that the communities helped the RDA understand the potential sites and gave important background. During the bus tour, Interim Merrillville Town Manager Michael Griffin and his staff, Hobart Mayor Josh Huddleson and Phil Taillon, Chief of Staff, Hammond meet for portions of the tour. Sherri reported that the RDA is are still on track for a final report to be delivered on March 1, 2024.
3. **2023 Financial and Internal Control Audit**– Sherri reported that the audit is scheduled for the week of March 18th and that staff is preparing internally for that, and fieldwork will begin soon.

c. **Unfinished Business:** None

ci. **New Business:** None

cii. **2024 Board Planning Calendar:** The quarterly Board meeting structure is reflected in the planning calendar.

ciii. **General Public Comment:** None

Respectfully submitted by Amy Jakubin