



- I. **Call to Order:** The RDA Board of Director's meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. CDT on Thursday, November 9, 2023 with Chairman Donald P. Fesko presiding.
- II. **Roll Call:** Present: Chairman Donald P. Fesko, Randy Palmateer, Chris Campbell, Alesia Pritchett, Patrick Lyp, Milton Reed, Phil Taillon, and Jason Gilliana. Eight members were present constituting a quorum.
- III. **General Public Comment:** None
- IV. **Consent Agenda:** Milton Reed motioned to approve the consent agenda with a second by Chris Campbell. All were in favor and the motion was approved.

1. **Minutes:** Board Meeting of October 12th, 2023 *Approved*

V. **Action Item:**

1. **Procurement: Lake County Convention Center Feasibility and Market Analysis Update Study Vendor:** Sherri Ziller reported that the RDA issued an RFP in September and reviewed the proposals. The RDA asked proposers to submit their best and final offer (BAFO) for conducting this study and those were received on October 18. After careful and thoughtful review, the firm that is recommended to conduct the study is Johnson Consulting in the amount of \$57,500.

Sherri Ziller asked the Board to approve the selection of Johnson Consulting to conduct the update to the Convention Center Feasibility Study and delegate to the CEO the responsibility to finalize negotiations and agreement with the selected firm.

Randy Palmateer motioned to approve the recommendation with a second by Chris Campbell. All were in favor and the motion was approved.

VI. **Project Status Review**

a. **Surface Transportation and Development:**

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

West Lake:

- Design is 89% complete; design of smaller civil works, train operating systems and one major bridge remain in progress.

- Current construction is focused on rail bed, utility relocation, bridges, station areas and retaining walls.
- Framing is complete on the EALM building in Hammond and siding has been installed. Plumbing and interior work is underway.
- Construction is 51% complete.
- NICTD's current estimate for Substantial Completion is October 25, 2024.
- An extended period of testing and commissioning is required between Substantial Completion and Revenue Service
- Revenue Service Date of May 1, 2025 is NICTD's current target.

Double Track:

- Overall Construction is 75% complete.
- DT1 (Main rail project): Work is fully underway in the sections west of Dune Park with several bridges nearing completion. Test trains have been successfully run on ETAO1 and ETAO2 (Dune Park to Michigan City).
- DT2 (MC 11th Street Station): Terracotta façade restoration 99% complete. NTP for station construction is imminent.
- DT3 (Gary Miller Station): Construction 95% complete. Work should be complete mid-November.
- DT4 (Portage/Ogden Dunes Parking Lot): Project is complete.
- DT5 (Dune Park East Parking Lot): Project is complete.
- DT6 (Positive Train Control): Contract is 62% complete. Coordination continues with DT1 contractor.
- NICTD plans to run revenue service trains on the new rail in Michigan City by late Fall.
- Revenue Service Date of May 15, 2024 is NICTD's current target.

b. Transit Development Districts:

Update: Sherri Ziller reported In October, the RDA Board and State Budget Committee approved three new TDD boundaries. In late 2023 and 2024, the RDA's team is focusing on potentially bringing forward three more TDD boundaries. In addition, the RDA is working to finalize the Gary Blight Elimination Strategy evaluations and the Metro Station Authority, all tied to the Gary Metro/Downtown TDD boundary. The team is also supporting communities to navigate development potential from a technical standpoint.



The FTA-Funded TOD reports have been completed and are in the process of being updated to NWITDD.com.

President's Report: Sherri Ziller reported on the following:

1. **New Comprehensive Strategic Plan (NCSP):** Sherri Ziller reported that the RDA expects to have the basics in place at the December RDA Board meeting, along with the 2024 RDA Budget for your consideration.
2. **TDD Steering Committee:** Sherri Ziller reported the final TDD Steering Committee meeting of 2023 is scheduled for November 15th at 11 a.m. central time. It will be held via Zoom and if any of the Board would like to attend, please email Dave Wellman.

VII. **Unfinished Business:** None

VIII. **New Business:** None

IX. **2023 Board Planning Calendar:** The quarterly Board meeting structure is reflected in the planning calendar.

X. **General Public Comment:** None