



I. **Call to Order:** The RDA Board of Director's meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. CDT on Thursday, June 12, 2025 with Chairman Donald P. Fesko presiding.

II. **Roll Call:** Present: Donald P. Fesko, Milton Reed, Chris Campbell, Randy Palmateer, Alesia Pritchett, John Carr, Jason Gilliana and Dewey Pearman. Seven members were present constituting a quorum.

III. **General Public Comment:** None

IV. **Consent Agenda:** Chris Campbell motioned to approve the consent agenda with a second by Randy Palmateer. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

V. 1. **Minutes:** Board Meeting of May 8, 2025 ***Approved***

VI. **Action Items:**

1. **Resolution 25-01: Governance Agreement Updates:** Chairman Fesko reported that Resolution 25-01 authorizes the RDA to transfer the existing balance of the WL escrow account as of 12/31/2024 to NICTD and authorizes the President and CEO to negotiate and finalize an amendment to the GA for the financial management of the rail projects.

*Randy Palmateer motioned to approve Resolution 25-01 with a second by Alesia Pritchett.  
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:**

1. Design is 97% complete; train signals and operating systems remain in progress.
2. BR101 at the Munster Dyer station was successfully installed on May 28, 2025. Work on the Main Street underpass continues to advance.
3. Catenary system installation is near completion and work on system (e.g. communications and power) installation is beginning.
4. Final paving of the Munster/Dyer station parking lot will begin now that BR101 is complete.
5. An extended period of testing and commissioning is required between construction completion and Revenue Service.
6. The NICTD team is focused on getting the trains running as soon as possible. NICTD conveyed to their Board on May 28, 2025 that Revenue Service will not be until the end of the year or later. NICTD is working with the contractor to find ways to minimize changes from the current schedule and prevent remaining items from creating any further delays. The FTA grant commitment is May 20, 2026.

**Double Track:**

1. Overall Construction is largely complete.
2. NICTD is now operating in full double track mode.
3. DT2 (MC 11th Street Station): The parking garage reached substantial completion on May 12, 2025 with final completion expected June 12, 2025. A grand opening ceremony for the station and garage is scheduled for June 18, 2025 at the station.
4. Revenue Service began on May 14, 2024, earlier than the FTA grant commitment of 11/6/2024.
5. NICTD continues to work on its scheduling and is coordinating with Metra to improve operations.

**b. Transit Development Districts:**

**Update:** AJ Bytner reported that the RDA continues to provide technical resources to communities within TDD boundaries and is focusing on finalizing the TDD program guide and draft MOA's. The goal is to create a smooth and clear path for communities and developers to execute projects.

**President's Report:**

**Update:** Sherri Ziller reported on the following:

1. **Lake County Convention Center** – Sherri Ziller reported the RDA held a meeting with City of Gary and Hard Rock leadership to identify questions regarding bonding and financing and that we are still in the early stages of organization. She reported that she will have more to report at the next scheduled board of directors meeting.
2. **Banking RFP** – Sherri reported that the RDA sent out an RFP to Lake and Porter Counties banks for the revenue the RDA will be receiving from the TDD's that are currently being held in escrow. The RDA will need to open between 11-13 new accounts to hold our dollars. Those responses are due July 18, 2025.

**VIII. Special Presentation:**

1. **RDA's New Comprehensive Strategic Plan** – Sherri gave

**IX. Unfinished Business:** None

**X. New Business:** None

**XI. 2025 Board Planning Calendar:** The quarterly Board meeting structure is reflected in the planning calendar.

**XII. 2025 Future Meeting Dates:** Future meeting dates are reflected in the board packet and can be found on the RDA website at [in.gov/rda](http://in.gov/rda).



**XIII. General Public Comment:** None

***Recess – Enter into Public Hearing***

**XIV. Action Items:**

1. **Resolution 25-02:** AJ Bytner gave a high-level overview of the TDD planning process over the past several years, including community engagement, analysis, and collaboration with various entities.

**XV. General Public Comment:**

**Jeff Benson** (Beverly Shores Town Council): Expressed gratitude for the TDD opportunity, highlighting the positive economic development impact seen in neighboring communities.

**XVI. Adjournment**

*Respectfully submitted by Amy Jakubin*