

## **West Lake Corridor**

### **Lake County, IN**

(December 2020)

The Northern Indiana Commuter Transportation District (NICTD) is constructing a 7.8-mile southern extension of the existing South Shore Line (SSL) commuter rail service between Dyer and Hammond in Indiana. The project includes four new stations, one maintenance and storage facility, three traction power substations, refurbishing 32 commuter rail cars and construction of 2,322 park and ride spaces. The project will improve transportation options for central and southern Lake County residents traveling to downtown Chicago and surrounding areas as well as to South Bend International Airport. The project is anticipated to enhance opportunity for the residents in Lake County seeking access to the Chicago job market while reducing travel time and costs. Service is planned to operate in both the opening and horizon year from 6:00 AM to 11:53 PM on weekdays and 6:00 AM to 1:45 AM on weekends, with trains operating approximately every 30 minutes during peak hours, every 60 minutes during midday off-peak hours, approximately every 100 minutes on weekday evenings, and every 120 minutes on weekends.

The total project cost under the Full Funding Grant Agreement (FFGA) is \$944.89 million. The Section 5309 New Starts funding share is \$354.57 million.

### **Status**

The project entered New Starts Project Development in September 2016. NICTD selected a locally preferred alternative and adopted it into the regional fiscally-constrained long-range transportation plan in May 2017. NICTD completed the environmental review process with receipt of a Record of Decision from FTA in March 2018. The project entered New Starts Engineering in October 2019. NICTD and FTA entered an FFGA in October 2020. The projected revenue operations date for the project is May 2026. All contracts have been awarded and right-of-way acquisition is currently ongoing. Construction is scheduled to start in August 2021.

Section 3005 of the Fixing America's Surface Transportation ("FAST") Act (Pub. L. 114-94; Dec. 4, 2015) authorized FTA to award Federal major capital investment funds for final design and construction of the West Lake Corridor Project. Through FY 2020, Congress has appropriated a total of \$100.00 million for the project.

**Reported in Year of Expenditure Dollars**

<b>Source of Funds</b>	<b>Total Funding (\$million)</b>	<b>Appropriations to Date</b>
<b>Federal:</b> Section 5309 New Starts	\$354.57	\$100.00 million in total New Starts appropriations through FY 2020
<b>State/Local:</b> State of Indiana General Fund Appropriations and Bond Proceeds	\$136.64	
State of Indiana Next Level Connection Fund	\$118.08	
Northwest Indiana Regional Development Authority Funds	\$335.60	
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$944.89</b>	

**NOTES:** The Source of Funds and Total Funding numbers are as established at the signing of the FFGA. The sum of the figures may differ from the total as listed due to rounding.

# Northern Indiana Commuter Transportation District West Lake Corridor Project Map

