Appendix H13. Verbal Court Reporter
Public Comments Received on DEIS
– January 18, 2017 Munster
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NORTHERN INDIANA COMMUTER TRANSPORTATION DISTRICT
WEST LAKE CORRIDOR PROJECT

JANUARY 19, 2017
6:00 P.M.
CENTENNIAL PARK
1005 SOUTH CENTRAL DRIVE, MUNSTER, IN

Verbatim Stenographic and Transcription Services of this Public Meeting provided by:

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MS. RINCON: My name is Harriet Rincon, H-A-R-R-I-E-T, R-I-N-C-O-N. My address is 8220 Harrison Avenue, #206, here in Munster. It's a condominium building one block north of Ridge on Harrison. The tracks I believe will go right behind our detached garages.

I am not opposed to the South Shore coming. I think it will benefit us far more than it will be detrimental for us. We will have the train behind our garages, but from what I understand now, the station and all the parking, everything is going to be on the south side of Ridge. We live on the north side.

So I think we need it in this area. I think we need people to be able to work in Chicago, make better money in Chicago, come back out here. I don't have land that's going to be acquired, so I can look at it a little differently because I'm not going to be affected, so those are my thoughts.

MS. KARPINSKI: I am Patricia Karpinski with a K, K-A-R-P-I-N-S-K-I, and I live at 8220 Harrison Avenue, Unit 404 in Munster, the same building as the last lady. And I am very happy that we well have the South Shore extension to
Dyer. I am happy that the station will be at Ridge Road near me. The train will come right on the back of our building. Our building is kind of diagonal on Harrison, but anyway the train will come behind our detached garages, and that's fine.

I'm happy because I will be able to go downtown and go shopping, to the theater, to the Orchestra Hall, and if I want to go myself, I will be able to go. I am partially -- I've been partially sighted all my life and not been able to drive, and I'm 68 years old. I've always had to live in areas where there is public transportation, and the public transportation in Northwest Indiana is the worst that I've ever seen, so it's got to improve, and I think this will help it to improve, and I will be able to go downtown myself without having to get someone to give me a ride to the train, my boyfriend. It will be great to go to Macy's or wherever I want to go downtown. I love downtown Chicago. I went to school down there. I worked down there before I went away to other cities to work, and now I'm back. I'm retired, and I like Munster, so
I think that the train will increase our property values, which is also good. And there will be a little bit more noise, I understand train noise, but I grew up in Blue Island. I grew up near three sets of railroad tracks. I didn't grow up on the right side of the railroad tracks, believe me, so I think it will be fine. A lot of the other people in the building that I live in, since we are older, a lot of us did grow up near railroad tracks, so railroad noise doesn't bother us so much. I'm used to it.

So that's what I have to say, but I do think that most of the time people who drive, they don't think of anybody who is not able to drive for one reason or another, and there are more people like me around than you think.

I just want to also say that, yes, I know people will probably say, well, why don't you use Frank Mrvan's Dial-a-Ride? Well, you know, you have to call two weeks ahead of time for Dial-a-Ride, and it just hasn't been useful for me, but that's okay because I'm retired. Right now my boyfriend takes me, and I go a lot of places, but I want to be able to go places by
myself more so. Thank you.

MR. SZUMELDA: My name is William Szumelda, 7949 Madison Avenue, Munster, Indiana. I've been a Munster resident approximately eight years. My phone number is 219-836-0408.

And my opinion about the considered South Shore line is negative at this time. I'm not in favor of it. It will add traffic, pollution, noise, affect the environment in the area. I live within five blocks of the railroad, and if it was there when I purchased, I would have not purchased, so I am a vote for no.

MS. OFFDENKAMP: My name is Dorothy Offdenkamp, O-F-F-D-E-N-K-A-M-P. I live at 1511 Melbrook in Munster, and I'm opposed to the station going in on Harrison Street/Avenue, I think it's going to cause traffic woes. It's not fair to the residents as they were given virtually no explanation of what was coming at them and no referendum to vote on something quite major.

I think it's going to be disruptive to the community at large in regards to traffic and being next door to a school and a whole noise,
vibration, a lot of elements that just isn't fair to introduce into a pre-existing neighborhood without even asking their opinion. Thank you.

MS. O'CONNOR: I'm Julie O'Connor, O-apostrophe-C-O-N-N-O-R, 434 South Street in Munster. My phone number is 312-925-6818.

I'm here with a group of residents of the Ridge and Harrison neighborhood (see attached list), and these are our concerns:

Number one, there was no referendum. How is this legal since the State of Indiana ordered a referendum?

Tax payers and homeowners were not given a vote in bring this transit project to their neighborhoods, yet are being taxed by a county income tax to pay for it. Nobody is listening to residents who say they don't want it.

Many residents feel town officials and other agency officials have not been transparent about the timeline, cost, potential property acquisitions, impact to specific neighborhoods or streets, and others aspects of the project. For example, at the October TOD meetings, we were told NICTD did not have
eminent domain capabilities and will not be taking any property for the stations, and apparently that is not the case.

Attempts by residents to obtain information has been stonewalled and dismissed. At the November 2015 presentation at Eads, boards were presented showing the location of the Ridge/Manor station and parking lot. When owners of two homes sited in the parking lot area questioned NICTD, John Parsons stated that the boards depicted only an artist's rendering, that it didn't mean that's where the station is going, and that nothing has been decided yet. He further stated that the Eads' meeting was not the meeting to discuss that or answer resident questions, but that a future meeting would be scheduled to do so. No audience questions were taken at the November 2015 Eads meeting.

The train will open the door to transit oriented development, which we will also not get a vote on.

One of the alleged benefits of the project is increased access to higher-paying Chicago jobs; however, taxes on the income generated
from these jobs gets paid primarily to Illinois. How much income tax will the state lose if the project fulfills projections?

Why isn't Illinois or any nearby Illinois communities contributing to the cost of the train even though we are counting on those residents for ridership goals?

How much will taxes (state and county income tax, property tax) go up as a result of the project?

Funding for this project is disproportionately disadvantageous to the economically disadvantaged communities of East Chicago and Gary without providing any benefit whatsoever to those residents. It is unfair for those cities to subsidize a project which takes passengers away from their cities and provides a benefit to the wealthier communities of Munster and Dyer.

Electric commuter rail projects typically have a useful life of 30 years before needing replacement of rail, catenary and other components. Where will the funds for maintenance, major repairs and eventual replacement come from?
South Shore on-time and service performance is poor, especially in icy weather as we just saw with the six- to eight-hour delay with trapped passengers with no heat and no restroom facilities. Why is the extension being built with the same faulty technology?

Even NICTD's own strategic plan no longer claims any jobs will be created by this project.

Transit alternatives like rapid-transit buses were not considered. Buses require no infrastructure, are flexible and expandable and are far less costly than rail.

The West Lake extension will not go all the way downtown due to track limitations with Metra and station limitations at Millennium Station. A certain number of the rides will be a shuttle which takes Dyer, Munster and South Hammond passengers only to the Hammond gateway station where they will have to disembark, travel down a level, and re-board a train from the South Shore main line.

What about Metra's southeast line? If that gets built, how will it affect ridership on the West Lake extension?
Has the need been established and it deemed necessary for two train stations in Munster so close to each other with only an estimated 1300 increase in new passengers projected? It's not necessary for the Munster/Ridge station to be so close to the South Hammond station, only two miles away.

To this day, no affected residents have been contacted by NICTD or the Town of Munster. Many plans have been made for our neighborhood, even ones which will force some of us from our homes, yet it seems we are the last to know. Some of us learned our homes would be taken by walking into a meeting, such as today, and seeing a parking lot in place of our homes. That we have been offered no information and no input is offensive and disrespectful. The way they have handled this gives me no confidence that they are going to work with me in good faith as a homeowner. What assurances can NICTD give that displaced or otherwise affected homeowners will have a seat at the table?

A majority of affected residents did not receive notice of these hearings from NICTD nor notice of the TOD meetings last fall despite
NICTD claiming they mailed notices. If not NICTD, who from our Town Council is advocating for impacted Munster families to ensure we are treated fairly, considered, and compensated for potential losses?

Residents within a quarter mile of the station will experience decreased property values due to noise, vibration, traffic and disruption. How will they be compensated?

Has the historic value of properties been considered? The four houses being taken for the Ridge Road station are each almost or more than 100 years old and have historic value. One is a mini-farm that has been in Munster for 150 years.

Some houses that allegedly will not be taken will have the station parking lot directly adjacent to their property lines. What measures will be taken to ensure resident property is protected and not subject to trespassing by passengers?

Harrison is a major thoroughfare for emergency response (EMS, police, and fire) and St. Paul School. Increased traffic will mean decreased safety response time and decreased
safety in general for the families of this neighborhood. How will safety response times and concerns be addressed?

Emergency responders (EMS, police, fire) will experience delays due to West Lake trains at grade-level crossings. School children walking to Eads, St. Paul, or St. Thomas More School from the west side of the West Lake corridor, particularly south of Ridge will need to cross the tracks twice daily to get to and from school. What safety measures will be in place to ensure safe crossings and avoid track cutting? Will the tracks be fenced?

The location of the tracks so close to resident back yards along Garfield and Frederick will produce unacceptable levels of noise. Will there be a quiet zone established from the onset of service? What about vibration mitigation?

The current infrastructure in the area cannot adequately support the increased traffic along Ridge Road, Manor, and Harrison. How much will NICTD provide to make repairs and improvement? Will the Town of Munster be required to pay for needed improvements or
repairs? If so, is the Town Council prepared to add these costs to its budget now or will residents around the station have to live with unsafe roads, increased traffic, decreased safety, et cetera until the need is established in order to provide for funding or until additional funds are available?

Will residents lose property to needed street widening? Traffic, especially from east and west, will greatly increase into an already congested area (Ridge, Manor, Harrison). Will increased traffic and passenger count require additional public services, for example police and EMS, and how will it be paid for?

What about McDonald's traffic? The McDonald's is located at 515 Ridge Road. There is a center left-hand turn lane that can accommodate about five or six cars. What happens when 12 or 15 or 20 cars try to turn in for a breakfast sandwich before catching the train? Those cars will block the eastbound left lane of Ridge and possibly the right-hand lane as well bringing traffic on Ridge to a crawl or stop. And the southbound Harrison intersection will be a nightmare.
Why are we putting the station behind homes, essentially hiding it behind the parking lot and a row of homes on Harrison. Are they trying to keep a neighborhood feel - even though they took out a section of this neighborhood by removing the four homes on South Street? Wouldn't it make more sense to put it where Aurelio's and KFC are and relocate those businesses? That way it would be open for all to see the train station, not shoe-horned into a residential neighborhood.

There is a discrepancy between the map, the chart on page -- I'm not sure what the chart is -- and the language on page 4-33 stating 18 homes on the end of Garfield will be taken for parking. Nicole Barker is the one who told me to make sure that I get that one in there.

So we were told in October that no homes would be taken for the TOD yet House Bill 1286 would grant eminent domain powers to Regional Development Authorities. Why would RDAs need eminent domain if no homes will be taken?

How many total homes will be taken for the Transit Oriented Development portion of this project?
We understand that because of the federal money given, Munster's TODs will have to include low income housing. First, how much low income housing is required to put in the town? And, second, where is the proposed placement of that housing?

With the TOD there will be an increase in population. How will the TOD/RDA support the School Town of Munster public schools who are currently in a financial crisis?

The TOD is to be a multi-use building containing condos, office space and businesses. What is the plan for the business space? Will the TOD support small business or will it be another mattress store? I am a small business owner and it's not easy. Will the rent be affordable for small businesses to rent? Just to clarify, I'm not a small business owner, one of the neighbors that I'm speaking on behalf of is a small business owner.

The TOD will fundamentally change the nature of the town to high-density residential housing which Munster has historically found undesirable.

MS. DAVIS: Susan Davis, 8425 Harrison
Avenue, 219-836-4735.

And I'm strongly opposed to the placement of the Ridge Road station. I don't see any reason to place it there when the environmental impact statement says that it is not compatible with the current residential neighborhood.

There's going to be another station within a mile or so to the south and another one to the north, I think this is totally unnecessary. It's going to be very disruptive to the existing community. It's going to cause displacement of residents, and it's going to -- for those of us who are near to the station, it's going to have a very impact on our property values and our lives, and my family has been on the property for 70 years, and most of our neighbors have been there between 30 and 70 years. We have people with special needs children. We have elderly residents, and we don't want to be dealing with the additional traffic. There does not seem to a cohesive plan for dealing with the traffic and the noise, et cetera, lights. We just don't see any need for the placement of this station there unless it is just to open a gateway for
the Transit Oriented Development, which we understand may be in the works next which will have an even more dramatic impact on the residents in the area there.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I'm doing this on behalf of Beverly Nyhan, N-Y-H-A-N, Beverly Nyhan, who owns the residence at 8434 Harrison Avenue in Munster, phone number 219-836-2167.

That house was built by her sister over 60 years ago. It is a very valuable house in a very valuable neighborhood with a very sizeable lot. She used to own seven acres there, sold most of it to Monaldi for development, so we're not unwittingly just opposed to development. We want sensible development, and putting a train through that neighborhood is not a really good idea, but the really bad idea is trying to put a train station in that neighborhood and destroy the quality of life for everybody in that entire neighborhood as well as the church and the school which 4-year-old to 14-year-old kids attend every day and all the kids on the bus stops right there, and then there's another church about two-and-a-half blocks away with another 500 students aged 4 to 14, and this is
the kind of development we don't want in this neighborhood: No train station at Ridge. Thank you.

MS. EDINGTON: I'm Andrea Edington, E-D-I-N-G-T-O-N.

I'm very opposed to the train going through the heart of my neighborhood. I have lived in this area for 30 years. The area has grown in population with business over time. This has been a benefit to the community. A train will not benefit Munster residents.

People living on the east side of Calumet Avenue may not even be aware of the train going through, but for those of us in the immediate area of the train, it will be horrible. First of all, I cannot even imagine the heartbreak for the people whose homes will be destroyed and forced to move because of the train. Changing homes, schools and uprooting your entire life so a train can go through a beautiful neighborhood must be unbelievably stressful and the worst of their nightmares.

There will be a tremendous increase in noise. Although it seems there are proposed steps to alleviate some noise, there is no way
all the noise from the train horn and the train itself can be eliminated. The noise will be deafening. Our once quiet neighborhood where people can peacefully garden, barbecue and go on living a normal life will be gone.

Safety will be a huge concern. How can a resident walk or bike safely to get from one side of town to the other? We will be forced to come out on Ridge Road where the traffic is already heavy and will only increase due to the train. It is ironic that the train would interfere with the only walking path in the immediate area. The train will virtually stop families and individuals from using the path. Rerouting the path won't make much of a difference, we still have to get to it.

There will be an increase in traffic. Ridge Road is already very busy, and the increase in traffic will create congestion, pollution and more noise in the area.

There will also be a negative environmental impact on the wildlife in the area. We actually have a fox. I have seen it several times in the early morning hours, and what a thrill it is. It is my understanding there is
actually a family, and they may be living in the area where the homes will be destroyed. The fox and its young, if there are any, will go as well. Even if it were to somehow survive, it would not be able to cross over from one side to the next. That may seem very trivial to people who value money concerns over the simple joy of seeing a wild animal actually thrive in a community like ours, but to us it's a thrill to see.

The argument is that the train will enable people who live south to go north. I think it's worth noting that the train also makes it possible for people north to come to our community. There's a huge gang problem on the south side of Chicago. I don't think it's out of the question to consider that these people will have easy access to our neighborhood.

I'm not familiar with the current network of the train tracks in the area. However, I do know there is an Amtrak station in Dyer on Sheffield. There is also a track that goes through Illinois near the country club. I wonder if these tracks have even been considered for this project. From what I see,
the Illinois tracks run in a less populated area. It is not residential. Since this project must enter Illinois as that is obviously the point to go to Chicago, why not bypass the Munster residential area for an existing Illinois track? This train should not be coming through a residential area in Munster. It does nothing to enhance our community. In fact, it will negatively impact a really nice area to live in. An alternate route through a less populated area should be taken. Thank you.

MR. DAVIS: My name is Thomas Davis. I live at 8425 Harrison Avenue, Munster, Indiana. My number is area code 219-836-4735.

I am very opposed to this station just on the fact that it's an increase in noise, it's an increase in light pollution from the parking lot. The traffic is going to be a lot worse than it is now on Harrison Avenue and Ridge Road. There's a school right down the street that when the traffic comes from it at 3:00 o'clock, it's already backed up from Briar Lane to Ridge. I can't imagine what it's going to be like with a train station on Ridge Road.
That's basically it. I'm just not for it.
Thank you.

MR. LUCAS: Jason Lucas, we live at 8410 Harrison Avenue, our number is 773-615-4511. My position is against the train, and I take the train every day from Hammond to downtown Chicago. The claim is that this is going to bring new families to Chicago. Really they're kicking families out like us because our block is on the cusp of being taken where the property (sic) is going to come, and we don't like it.

I moved here to get away from the noise, and I drive there every day, so them saying riders want this is total crap. We don't want it. It's dangerous for the kids, and it's right by a school, and that really disturbs me, an elementary school where kids can get hurt.

We've been told nothing by the Town, which is very annoying. You can't get a hold of anybody from the Town, and we just have no information on this, and this is -- two weeks ago is the first we're hearing about this, so we're just opposed to it and we don't want that train station in our back yard.
MS. SONS: My name is Kelly Sons, S-O-N-S. I am at 8420 Harrison Avenue in Munster. My phone number is 219-513-9721.

If you don't mind, I'm just going to kind of read from here. I'm going to start off by saying that we're not just people that are in the way that you can put to the side or be forced to just pick up and move without a fight. We are families with children. We all have feelings and they matter, we matter.

We moved to Munster five years ago to make a better life for ourselves and our children. We have three children, two of which have special school needs. We thought when we chose to move here that this is our forever home that fit us perfectly. We found a home with neighbors that we knew. We have a great deal of privacy behind us and are able to see the wildlife all year round. We moved here October of 2012, and we lost both of our in-laws in November, 30 hours apart. We buried them on our five-year-old's birthday. They were moved to a new home, lost two grandparents, and started new schools. All we have is the new life that we have built here, and you just want
to come in and put your station and parking lot in like it doesn't matter to the people that live here. You want to put this directly in my back yard.

I understand there's not much that I may be able to do about the train, but we can fight the parking lot and station. This will invade all of our privacy at every hour of every day. There will be lights, snow plows, car alarms, people talking and looking into our yards, garbage at all hours of the day and night. This is completely unacceptable.

We want to know how long it will take for you to make up your minds about what you will be doing with our lives. We need an answer. Are our property values going to rise, drop or are you going to buy us out? What is your guarantee to us for making all of these critical changes to our lives? We don't even feel like we can change an outlet in our house or make any changes or improvements because we don't know if we're going to be here or not. How fair is that?

The decisions you have or have not made are messing with our lives right now. Our mental
and physical health is in the balance. This is not a game or business dealing to us. We want answers. This is our lives. You tell us all about all of the rosy, happy, good things that this is going to bring to us and our neighborhood and our town, but what about the bad things? What about the crime? What about the people, the gangs, and the garbage that's going to be left in our neighborhoods? Thank you.

MR. PIROK: My name is Brian Pirok, P-I-R-O-K, my address is 434 South Street in Munster, Indiana 46321, telephone is 219-629-5937.

My concern is I'd like to know what the plan is for the potential for plummeting property values along the entire length of the rail line after it runs from one end of the town to the other. My fear is that, you know, we've all read reports, and I think there's some reference in the environmental impact study that references a certain distance away from the tracks, that those people will enjoy an increase in property value, but my concern is the people that are adjacent to the new line
and that their property values will drop, and then it starts the cycle where they need to sell the property and they sell it at a reduced cost. The new property owners may not be as prepared to take care of the property because they're new and they acquired the property at a discount and they may not be so driven to maintain the property as the previous owner, which will start a cycle of letting in people that aren't quite able to care for the property in the manner in which -- in the same manner the previous owners were and it will start an escalation of reduced property values and it will eventually spread out beyond that magic quarter mile mark that shows up in some of the reports as those people enjoying the benefit of closer proximity to the train.

So I would like to know if there's a plan in place or if there's been any thinking along those lines about the potential for the people that live the closest to the train rather than those that live in the neighborhood.

MS. LEVIN: My name is Heather Levin, L-E-V-I-N, 10147 Devonshire Lane in Munster. My phone number is 219-924-2539.
First of all, I've heard conflicting reports about Section 8 housing, which I'm not completely opposed to, but I don't want any train stations in Munster to look like around the area in Hammond where the train station is. I am concerned about that. But overall, the area that's going to be affected is much larger than just around the train station and just at the railroad tracks. It's going to be much more far reaching, and I personally am in favor of the train. I think that it's going to lower property taxes, it's not going to happen over night, I get that -- not lower property taxes, increase property values, I'm sorry, it will increase property values. I think it will decrease traffic and it will cut down commute times to go into the city. You know, it's not about taking your grand kids into the city, it's about people that have to go in every single day for work and come home every single day, and it will cut down on that. It will cut down on the gas that's used, so already Northwest Indiana does not have the best environment because of the steel mills for years, and I think that that's a benefit.
I guess that's it. I want somebody to know that not everybody is here to protest in anger and stuff. I mean I do need to learn more about this, but I think that the people that are against it aren't really helping their cause by coming and screaming over the people trying to talk and get information.

MR. BARNHART: My name is Ryan Barnhart, I live at 8121 Highland Place in Munster. I'm against the train. Me and my fiance moved, bought the house there, and whenever we moved there, everything seemed nice, and then they tore down the condos or the duplexes behind our house, they said it was for a park. About a year later we came and we found out that they were putting a train there, and basically we've had no recourse. There's nothing we can do, so I'm very against this train.

I don't know why we need two stations in Munster. I would prefer it if there were no stations in Munster and there was one in Hammond and one in Dyer. That's all I have.

MS. LATTA: My name is Julie Latta, L-A-T-T-A, the first name is J-U-L-I-E. My address is 8121 Highland Place, and it's in
Munster, Indiana. My phone number is area code 319-325-0808.

Firstly, I think this is a horrible idea. We want a referendum. We feel that the -- I feel that we need a vote and that citizens should have an opportunity to let others know how theyfeel and how this impacts them.

I want fair and equitable treatment, consideration and compensation for impacted residents. Nowhere has anyone told the residents or homeowners how they're going to be compensated for their lost property value as well as their lost property.

There's huge safety concerns in the areas that will be impacted. Houses are going to be taken, and there's really no good property lines around them.

The train is going to fundamentally change the nature of the town. It's going to be high-density residential housing which Munster has found historically undesirable.

Lastly, I think the trains is not cool.

Thank you.

MS. YAEGER: I'm Maureen Yaeger, Y-A-E-G-E-R, 450 South Street, Munster,
Indiana, 219-836-0407.

My comment is that I am on the corner of South and Harrison and I am within a quarter of a mile of the train station. I am two houses from where the parking lot is going to go. I have lived in that home for 30-plus years. It's a dead-end block. Now I understand that's going to be the entry into the parking lot, and that's going to cause an issue, a lot of traffic. I find it hard to believe they're only taking four homes. Are they going to put the train station behind a row of homes on Harrison so you won't see it?

It's going to impact my property taxes and the cost of my home. Nobody ever told us about it until it's done. This appears to be a done deal. And I don't think they're really taking into consideration all of the people in the neighborhood. I know that it has to go somewhere, but they should have gotten our opinion or told us about it.

I'm all about making it better for everyone, but it seems like they're not even taking into consideration us who are the most affected by it, that we might be losing our
homes or we're going to lose the value of our home or we're going to be forced to leave, and I feel like they didn't even give us an opportunity to speak about it.

MS. SANOW: My name is Amanda Sanow, S-A-N-O-W, my address is 8618 Garfield Avenue, and my phone number is 219-670-3389.

My concern is I just recently purchased my house, I bought it in the end of July. This information was not relayed by the homeowner, I'm not sure whose responsibility it would have been, if it was the homeowner's or the realtor's, but no one gave me this information. My back yard butts up to the bike path, so I will have a train essentially in my back yard. My fence goes on to the easement, which I've already been told the easement is going to be taken, so essentially part of my back yard will be taken.

The problem I also have with this is we are going to have two stations in Munster. Munster only needs one station. We do not need to uproot a community. We do not need to uproot citizens to put in another train station for the convenience of like a five-minute drive.
We do not need a second station.

No one from NICTD or the Town has made any contact to anyone in our neighborhood about this situation. No one has let any of us know. NICTD did send out post cards and it was supposed to go out to those who were going to be affected, however not everyone received those. When I contacted NICTD about that, they said that we needed to contact the post office or something like that. However, this has just not been handled correctly. You need to contact the residents who it's going to affect directly. I'm going to be affected directly due to the train being in my back yard. I am completely opposed to a second train station. It is not okay to have a second train station in the town of Munster. Thank you.

MR. YAEGER: My name is Glen Yaeger, Y-A-E-G-E-R, I live at 450 South Street, which is on the corner of the entrance to the so-called parking lot. I have lived in this house 31 years, and if you're going to put the parking lot, take all the houses around there. It just -- it doesn't make sense.

The increased traffic in my front -- it's a
dead end. It's been a dead end. I raised my family there. So that's all. Just be honest with us, that's all. Thank you.


I'm really against the whole South Shore extension because if the versions they pick, that our house will be destroyed and we'll have to move. We built this house about six years ago, a custom-designed house for quite a bit of money, and I don't want to move any more.

I feel the South Shore end of the line ought to be at U.S. 30 and the CSX ought to allow the South Shore to run over their track, possibly double tracking from Munster down to 30 to accommodate both the freight and South Shore passengers. Thank you.

MR. CHARZ: My name is Robert Charz, 8421 Moraine avenue. Indiana people are armed and they go into -- they're expected to go into the murder capital of the United States unarmed. That's a crazy thing to ask people to do.

Now when the people leave their guns at home in Indiana, that means everybody in
Chicago is going to come to Indiana looking for guns. Anyway, that's it.

MS. BUDESELICH: My name is Michelle Budeselich, M-I-C-H-E-L-L-E, last name is B-U-D-E-S-E-L-I-C-H, I live at 340 Norwich Court in Munster, Indiana, and I currently am opposed to the train plan for two primary reasons: The first one is low income housing, or Section 8 housing, I do not want any of that in the area where I live for property value concerns as well as school evaluation concerns and just overall crime and, you know, all of that. The second reason is the possibility of having a train parking in West Lakes subdivision, which is where I live. I think it's a huge concern, and I don't even know how it's even possibly feasible.

We already have an abundance of traffic given the Family Christian Center on the corner that causes a nightmare of traffic all week long. We have tons of delays getting in and out of our subdivision. I can't even imagine if we threw a commuter week-long process into that.

In addition, I mean just thinking of the
commuter trains in the morning and our kids being out on school buses and people racing to get to those trains on time. We have two lanes going down Margo, and it's already tight, so if people park on either side of the street, then you have like a one-lane situation, and it's caused a bunch of accidents already, in addition to safety concerns obviously and primarily.

I also think that I mean overall just in and out having two entrances would cause more crime. The possibility of just more vandalism, things like that. Right now we're at a dead end, so people know they can't get out in a hurry, but that would create the opportunity for all those things to happen, so I am highly opposed for those two reasons.

If those two issues were not in play, I'd be all for it. Thanks.

MR. BOLLINGER: My name is Jeff Bollinger, B-O-L-L-I-N-G-E-R, my address is 8504 Harrison Avenue. I am opposed to the new station and the train running through Munster. One, I believe it's just going to cause way too much traffic for the condensed area that it is in.
Also, you know, with the school district and church down the street, you know, eventually over time I believe it's going to end up causing more people money and taxes due to, you know, cleaning the streets, fixing the streets, fixing the railroad, just tons and tons of traffic, just bottom line just opposed to the train station.

MR. TSATAROS: My name is Dan Tsataros, T-S-A-T-A-R-O-S, I'm at 401 Carnaby Place in Munster, Indiana, West Lakes subdivision, and I am strongly opposed to the parking lot being accessible through Margo Lane. If the train comes through, that's fine, but people parking for the train should not come through or have access to our private subdivision, rather they should go through Main Street.

Quite frankly, West Lakes of Munster has been treated like the stepchild subdivision for the entire ten years that I've lived there, and I'm sick and tired of it. We have to deal with the traffic of the church every Wednesday. We have to deal with the traffic of the church every Sunday. It takes me an hour-and-a-half to get into my subdivision at times. The
solutions offered are ridiculous by the Town of Munster, and the Munster Police Department specifically telling me as a resident to use a flag. I'm sick and tired of it, and I think that this train is going to be one other additional nightmare scenario if Margo is opened up for parking.

MR. FARKAS: My name is Steven Farkas, F-A-R-K-A-S, I'm at 8605 Garfield Avenue, that's in Munster, 219-670-1042.

I have some concerns about the train. I'm a 32-year rider of the South Shore, so, you know, that being said, I see single track. Everywhere they can, they're trying to get rid of single track. This is a bad idea putting in a single track. One of the biggest problems we had with the six- to eight-hour delay was that ice built up on catenary in areas in between places where there's single track, places where there were delays, and the catenary was out in the open getting iced. This just adds to delay, it adds to problem. If a rail car breaks, you now have someone blocking the train. It's a big issue.

One of the other problems I have is when
they're talking about -- I live within the footprint, very close, like 160 feet from the track. Give me a better drawing. You've had a lot of time. There's high-res image. Give me something where I can look at a picture and know that this is my home. I figured it out, but I shouldn't have to spend four months figuring it out. You have the ability. Give me good images. Thank you very much.

MR. WAROT: My name is Michael Warot, W-A-R-O-T. I'm at 440 South Street, and my phone number is 219-801-9272.

My comments are, like Steve, there's not sufficient detail in the maps that are available to tell whether your property is going to become part of a station to be acquired or not. I understand there are laws against publishing a list of properties to be acquired, but you should be able to ask for your own individual house if you come to the meeting and are in person. You should at least be able to find out yes or no right away.

Double tracking is an issue. This plan is single track, and if there's a problem anywhere, everybody is going to be delayed.
Double tracking should be, if not part of the project, the rail should be located so that a second track can be added in phase two. It should be built in to the design from the start. Designing it in shouldn't cost that much. If you can't even afford the rail, you can at least move the track so that there's space for it.

There's two different phases of this project, there's the Transit Oriented Development and the actual train planning, and there needs to be more explicit statements of how those are related in the public forums and public meetings and public announcements because right now you don't know which is which.

I came to the last meeting here thinking it was part of this process, and it turns out it was Transit Oriented Development and they were asking us architecture questions, and I just wanted to know if I was still going to have a home. I think that's it. Thank you very much.

MR. CRAIG: My name is Timothy Craig, C-R-A-I-G, and I'm at 8516 Garfield Avenue in Munster, Indiana. My house butts right up
against the train tracks, so obviously I'm against. I'm against the train in general, but if the train is going to happen, I see no need for the train station to be on Ridge Road. It's already congested there enough. Calumet Avenue is a nightmare. It's gridlocked traffic a lot of times. I just don't see how they'll make that work.

Another thing that I'm also concerned about, this whole thing, I worry about my wife who suffers from anxiety and panic attacks, and, you know, the idea of not knowing what's going to happen is one thing, but when this actually happens, I don't know how she'll be able to handle that.

Another concern, if they put the parking lot, the Ridge Road station, I know they'll have to tear down some old farm houses and some barns, and I know for a fact all those are covered with asbestos siding and asbestos roofing. What will they do to protect the neighbors if that happens as far as, you know, asbestos dust flying all over the place? I never heard anybody discuss that part of it.

But I'm totally against this for a variety
of reasons, and I have friends that stated other views that I know are already recorded, so just off the top of my head, that's all I've got.

MR. DUJMOVIC: My name is Mike Dujmovic, D-U-J-M-O-V-I-C, my address is 1833 Tulip Lane, Munster, the zip is 46321. The phone number is area code 219-838-6350.

The question is I've watched the dog and pony show next door, and in one of the last slides, they talk about -- it was -- they're talking about maintenance costs, and the way it was broken down, it said 35 percent of the maintenance cost is going to come like from ticket sales and stuff like that, the other 65 percent is coming from local sources. My question to them is define local sources. I want to know, you know, the way it was answered to me was RDA's got it I guess lined up until 2028, what happens after that? Where are you getting the money from? Because I'd be facetious and say how deep into my pocket are you going to reach?

And then my other question was, okay, the federal money that they're trying to get,
they're competing with a bunch of different other entities I guess, what happens if they don't get the federal matching money? What does that do to their funding? That's basically it. Thank you.

MS. LAREAU: Cathy LaReau, 2337 Rolling Hill Drive, Dyer, L-A-R-E-A-U, email Lareau7@sbcglobal.net; home number 219-322-6523.

Okay, you know, I know that the focus has been a lot on TOD development, economic development, but I think they've lost sight of that there's another side of this, and I am very concerned for the residents within the Dyer/Munster train station and the Dyer layover facility and how it will negatively affect the quality of life to the residents within the surrounding area.

When you look at the location of the proposed station and the layover facility, it will be placed anywhere from approximately give or take 200 feet to 1200 feet of residential homes, nursing homes, retirement villages and parks, and this not only will -- the additions will not only bring the repercussions from the
trains and the station, but also because of the enormous increase of vehicle traffic, they're expecting 3000 daily riders, this is a quiet location in the community, and I think by the development it's obvious by who would be surrounding this area, and it's not a fitting location. The negative effect it would have on the quality of life for all those in proximity, which primarily they're residential homes, and like I said, there's senior citizens and children.

The one thing that it would affect negatively is the air quality. The increased pollutants from such an increase in traffic and I would speculate CO2 levels from the locomotives will affect the health of the residents. Studies prove that air pollution from traffic has been linked to many negative health effects. It worsens asthma symptoms. It develops asthma in children, lung cancer, reduced lung function, heart disease, increased risk of death from heart conditions. Air pollution could worsen the symptoms from people with existing heart and lung conditions. Children and elderly are at greatest risk.
Noise pollution, it adversely affects the lives of millions of people. Studies show that there are direct links between noise and health. Problems related to noise include stress-related illness, high blood pressure, sleep disturbance, loss of productivity. Right in the area you have elderly, a nursing home directly across the street and within, again, maybe 1200 feet.

Safety concerns: Drugs, a report by the U.S. Department of Justice National Intelligence Drug Center has put out a report titled "Lake County High-Intensity Drug Trafficking Area Drug Market Analysis 2010". They're brought in through commuter rails. In this report it says the high-intensity drug trafficking region is located in Northwest Indiana, adjacent to the Chicago, Illinois metropolitan area. Mexican drug trafficking organizations pour large quantities of drugs in the urban areas of East Chicago, Gary and Hammond, Indiana for regional distribution. Lake County is evolving into a regional storage area for commercial-grade Mexican marijuana. While some local gang leaders have discouraged
members from committing violent acts to intimidate others, violence often results from disputes among street gang members over drug distribution territories or during drug and money rip-offs by dealers or buyers. They carry firearms and hand guns when they do the retail drug distribution.

Traffickers -- and all of this is in that report -- traffickers and abusers routinely use the commuter railway system that connect Lake County and Chicago to buy and sell illicit drugs. These systems provide numerous daily departures and arrivals between Chicago and the Lake County high-intensity drug traffic region.

So my point is when you look at all of those concerns, air quality, noise pollution and the safety concern with drugs being brought through the commuter rail line, why would we bring these highly-probable problems to the residents of Dyer and even the local surrounding community of Munster? Dyer is a bedroom community that has been made favorable status as the top 100 places to live in the country, the 9th safest place to live in the state, and the 15th best place for young
families to live. In my opinion, those concerns and the way it would affect the quality of life of those residential homes surrounding the proposed station and layover facility do not warrant any benefit that would come from possible TOD development.

I have been a Dyer resident for 30 years, but I'm also on the Dyer Town Council and I've been on that for one year.


My preference as a long-time Munster resident is the no build alternative. I have resided in Munster all my life, and people move to Munster to get away from commotion and traffic and to be safe. Building onto the South Shore line and the West Lake corridor would increase traffic and crime in Munster. Residences would be torn down. The Town of Munster would resemble more of a larger city. None of these impacts are desirable to most Munster residents.

Although I don't believe that we've had the
ability to voice these concerns or even know what has been going on, I did not vote for this South Shore line to be built in my beloved town. Wetlands will be lost. Residences will be lost. Quietness will be lost if the South Shore line is built in the West Lake corridor. Thank you.

MS. RYBICKI: My name is Corey Rybicki, R-Y-B-I-C-K-I, I live at 409 Knightbridge Place, Munster. My phone number is 219-595-0576. I live in West Lakes at the end. My house is one of the options, it takes my home. I believe it's option three maybe. I am opposed to my home being taken. The plan that is preferred I would look like right into a parking lot. I am opposing to looking right into a parking lot and the safety of my children playing outside.

I see pros of the train, but obviously I don't want it right on top of me. I also do not want Margo connecting into the parking lot, which I know that's a consideration. I just would rather not have the train. I don't really use the train, whether for commuting or going to Chicago, I don't go to Chicago that
much. I guess that's it.

MS. LOSINIECKI: My name is Kris Losinecki, L-O-S-I-N-I-E-C-K-I, I live on the corner of Manor and Timrick. I am across the street from where the train tracks are going to be reactivated. They're directly behind my neighbor's house. This has been a long and very arduous project because there doesn't seem to have been a lot of transparency. No one is sure if they're taking houses, if they're buying people out. There's just a lot of hysteria out there, and it was super-helpful to come to a place where there were people from more than one aspect of this project so that we could have our questions answered in tandem with each other. What is the train people's responsibility? What is the TOD people's responsibility? How does one affect the other? What are the plans for each of them?

It started out negative. I got here late. I saw a lot of people leaving. I was happy that they did ultimately because it left room for rational conversation, and I feel 10,000 times better than I did when I walked in here, so thank you so much for just having everybody
in one spot, and a little bit of transparency goes a long way.

(Which were all the proceedings had at such time and date.)

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STATE OF INDIANA )
) COUNTY OF LAKE )

I, SUSAN M. PUDLO, RPR, CSR, Notary Public
Within and for the County of Lake and State of Indiana, do hereby certify that heretofore, to wit, on the 19th day of January, 2017, that the testimony given at the Public Meeting on the Northern Indiana Commuter Transportation District West Lake Corridor Project was stenographically recorded and afterwards transcribed upon a computer personally by me, and that the foregoing is a true and correct transcript of said testimony.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and seal this 23rd day of January, 2017.

__________________________
Notary Public
Lake County, Indiana
Comment Card

Name: Deepak Ariga

Hearing Date/Location: Munster / 11/19/17 / Centennial Park

Contact Info: ________________________________

Comment: We need the train. I agree with all the proposed economic and cultural positive impacts. This will be a boon to the local economy and environment.

Continued
Comment: we do not need an expensive train our backyard. The town of Munster has sold our area at. There have been lies - our town council just money - An 8 mile train at billions - 4 stations
we don't need - No vote to decide on this train - Our houses will be worth nothing - This meeting was a waste of time -
Name: A. Andreollo

Hearing Date/Location: [Handwritten]

Contact Info: [Handwritten]

Comment: NO 2nd entrance to West Horse Subdivision will increase traffic on Margo + could increase crime + church traffic diverted through subdivision
Name: Gary T. Bell

Hearing Date/Location: Munster 1/19/17

Contact Info: 312-804-5902

Comment: I live in the Westlake Subdivision. We do not want the parking lot to access Norjo Lane or the subdivision. Too much traffic speeding cars and the road is not designed for such traffic. This concerns the South Munster station.

Thank you.
Comment Card

Name: Tiffani Bell

Hearing Date/Location: 1/19/17 Munster

Contact Info: Tbel@munster.us 312-564-5961

Comment: I am not totally opposed to the train, but I am EXTREMELY concerned about access to the station thru the West Lakes Subdivision down Margo Ln. This is a residential area that already has traffic issues. The safety of...
the residents would be at stake. How are
children supposed to board school busses?
The church and park at the front of the
subdivision gets crowded. How could
hundreds of cars speeding to catch the train
be an asset to our community? (West Lakes Sub)
Comment Card

Name: Mini Bianchi

Hearing Date/Location: 1/19/2017

Contact Info: mbianchi@comcast.net

Comment:

1. WHAT ARE PLANS TO MAKE NEW MINSTER (MUNICIPAL) MORE THAN JUST A PARKING LOT FOR COMMUTERS?

2. WHAT IS THE HEALTH IMPACT (RE: HIGHTOWER LINE)?

3. WHAT ARE PLANS TO CONNECT NEW INDIANA TO CHICAGO AREA AIRPORTS?
Name: Ann Bochnowski

Hearing Date/Location: 1-19-2017 Munst

Contact Info: bochnowski@sbcglobal.net

Comment: This would be a positive economic development for our town & the whole area! We would compete by families who earn high wages in Chicago because we would have a train.
Name: Rachel Branagan & Patrick Branagan

Hearing Date/Location: Munster

Contact Info: 312.320.1916 rachelbranagan@aim.com

Comment: I fully support this project - it would really be great to have better access to the South Shore, closer stations than East Chicago and Hammond. Retail development would also improve our quality of life - being able to shop closer to home in our own neighborhood.
Would be ideal, and keeping revenue in Munster would be great - currently Highland & Sleserenville get most of our retail business.
Name: DAVID BURGESS

Hearing Date/Location: 11/19/17 Council Park

Contact Info: AUBURGESS1@YAHOO.COM

Comment: I LIVE IN WEST LAKE SUBDIVISION ON MAKDO LANE IN MUNSTER. I AM OPPOSED TO ANY ALTERNATIVE THAT TURNS MAKDO LANE INTO A THRU STREET. TRAFFIC ON MAKDO LANE IS ALREADY A PROBLEM FROM THE "CHURCH ON THE
Corner of 13th & 35th. I bought my house because it is not on a thru street. I do not want to live on a thru street.
Comment Card

Name: Roland Comp

Hearing Date/Location: 19 Jan 2017 Munster

Contact Info: 8750 Harrison Ave. #101 Munster, IN

Comment: 1) Extending the West Lake Corridor train will contribute to urban sprawl.

2) Why is it necessary to have a station at Ridge Road and another 10 blocks - less than 1/2 mile away in Hammond?

Continued →
Comment Card

Name: [Redacted]

Hearing Date/Location: 19 Jan 17 / Munster

Contact Info:

Comment: I have lived in NWI all my life. I am FOR the train, but the station/parking lot proposal is in my backyard. My backyard is beautiful with large trees, open land, and an old barn. A parking lot/station would be intrusive, invade my privacy, create security issues. Not to mention the parking lot won't work.
While I want to be understanding, I have picked my house for the backyard. I redid it, putting all wood floors by my hands. Painter, replace the kitchen, roof and windows. I often sleep with my windows open or walk the dogs who knock my doors.

While change is hard and sometimes good. This change feels forced and why my input of interest. If I cannot stop it, please, buy me out! And more.

Some green space
Illinois has a extensive trail system. In Illinois, people can walk, ride, roller blade, snow shoe, and in some cases even ride horses on these trails. Indiana has very little for residents when it comes to recreational paths. But we do have a walking path in Munster. It is the only trail in the area and the current proposal for the train will create a barrier making it hard for seniors like myself, children and families to cross from the west side of the train tracks to the rest of the town. It will deny access and wall us off.

I regularly walk around the town. I cut across the path to get to the side streets on the east side of the path so I can walk in a pollution and noise free area. I am able to get from my house on Moraine Ave. to go to the library for example. My route is quiet and safe. I am a senior citizen and walking several times a week is beneficial for my health. The sound barrier proposed for noise abatement is going to wall off people who either use the walking path or cross over it to get to the neighborhoods on the other side. I will be forced to go to Ridge Road where my route will be unsafe, congested, extremely noisy and the air quality is bad. I am not saying there should not be a sound barrier. I am saying there should not be a train that goes through the heart of a residential area.

This train is going to negatively affect the health of the residents nearby. There will be increased noise, congestion, pollution and make walking in the area impossible.

If there must be a train, there should be another route where it does not go through a neighborhood.

Robert Charz
421 Moraine Ave
Munster, IN 46321
Build your home in the last development parcel in Munster

34 single family home sites available

West Lakes Development
Phase 4
(219) 237-8988
Comment Card

Name: ADDISON C. F. O'NEIL

Hearing Date/Location: 1-19-17

Contact Info: ADDISON@O'NEIL GMAIL.COM

Comment:

DO NOT CONNECT PARKING LOTS IN MINISTER/LOWER TO SUB DIVISION;
IN WEST LAKES TOO MANY CARS WILL MAKE IT DANGEROUS.
Comment Card

Name: ANDREW CIPONIES

Hearing Date/Location: 1/19/17 MUNSTER

Contact Info: ANDRENCIPONIES@GMAIL.COM

Comment: DO NOT CONNECT THE WEST LAKES PARKING LOT TO WEST LAKES SUB DIVISION.
I WONT BE ABLE TO FEEL SAFE WITH SO MANY CARS RACING THROUGH.

Continued
Name: KIM CIPOWSKI

Hearing Date/Location: 1/19 CONTINENTAL PARK MONTER

Contact Info: KIM.CIPOWSKI@GMAIL.COM

Comment: MY CONCERN IS THE CONNECTION OF THE PROPOSED PARKING LOT (WEST OF THE TRAIN STATION) TO OUR SUB-DEV MARSH LAND IS NOT MADE TO HANDLE THE CURRENT TRAFFIC THAT USES IT. PLUS THERE ARE APPROX 75 MORE LOTS TO BE DEVELOPED. YOU ADD TRAIN PARKING
To that traffic pattern and you have created

a dangerous situation for the residents of

the West Lakes Subdivision

Also there is a large amount of traffic that
goes east on Glenwood Avenue and turns south on
Calumet to get to Major and St. John. If this

find a cut through (even if it goes through a parking
lot) they will use it, increasing traffic even more

You want parking south of West Lakes Sub-Div
since don't connect it to the sub divisions
Comment Card

Name: Brian Colwell

Hearing Date/Location: 1/18/17 Munster IN

Contact Info: Brian Colwell Brian.colwell@sbcglobal.net

Comment: My main concern is the proposed Munster Ridge Road station at the parking. What is going to be done to mitigate noise, light, and safety issues for properties that will be adjacent to the parking lot? What about the decrease in property values for those?
residencies?
Comment Card

Name: JANET COOPER

Hearing Date/Location: 1-19-17 Munster Centennial Park

Contact Info: 836-0576, janet.cooper1021@gmail.com

Comment: Most people that will ride the train from Munster are already riding it using the Hammond or East Chicago stations. I think you have grossly overestimated new ridership. Most riders will just switch stations. NOT WORTH the huge expenditures, trouble, and DISPLACEMENT which will ruin OUR NEIGHBORHOOD!
Name: Kristen Caslet

Hearing Date/Location: Munster 1-19-17

Contact Info: Kristen Caslet@nictd.com

Comment: Thank you for being informative. Great job!! I support all of your efforts to make NWI great with top notch public rail transportation throughout the region.
Name: Ben Czarszewicz

Hearing Date/Location: 1-19-2017 - Munster

Contact Info: Phone: 219-932-8771

Comment: Option 1 - A fly over starting at Douglas will not only kill downtown - but nothing will ever open - Option 2 4 3 with a downtown station would possibly bring in business & people to reside. No one moves into an area with no businesses.

Continued
TO SECURE THEIR NEEDS — Downtown Hammond
Al ready has plenty of vacant buildings and ample parking to easily be converted into
a huge and viable station — you may be able to not have to displace so many people by
having two stations so close together in the South End.
Name: Jared Damico

Hearing Date/Location: 1/19  Munster

Contact Info': JaredDamico e Hotmail.com

Comment: Very excited about the potential for this project — make it happen!

Concern is impact on Marco in West Lakes. Please make traffic control provisions if connecting to Main St.

Continued
Name: Bill Davis

Hearing Date/Location: 1-19-17 / Munster

Contact Info: 239 Broadmoor, Munster 46321

Comment: Concerned about "Green Space"/Overflow Park on Manor (N. of Ridge) just west of proposed rail line. I own property in the neighborhood and I am concerned if further "Green Space" acquisition will jeopardize my property or adjacent properties.

Continued
Name: Peggy Dekof

Hearing Date/Location: Munster 1-19-17

Contact Info: psd1152@aol.com

Comment: There is no need to put a station at Ridge Road. I strenuously object to that. The distance between the Dyer/Munster station and the 173rd Hammond station is close enough to negate the Ridge Rd station. As a commuter, I would be irritated at a stop of such a
Name: 

Hearing Date/Location: 1-19-17

Contact Info: 463-3947

Comment: This whole thing is very unnecessary. Since this takes up at least 30 minutes, homes will be affected in a negative way. So ensure that the train hub should be South of ridge. South of ridge. I also don't want more.
short distance thus adding extra minutes to my commuting time. By eliminating that stop there would be less people displaced from their homes and it would alleviate congestion on Ridge Road and surrounding streets which were not designed for the extra traffic.
Name: Mrs. Henry G. Ginagos

Hearing Date/Location: January 19, 2017

Contact Info: ginagos @ a.o.l. com

Comment: I want the "NO BUILD Alternative"

We are a family of 5 and moved here in 1969. We chose Munster because it's a small
town, no crime (low rate),
beautiful place. Close to
Chicago — but away from
Chicago.
Crime will increase
definitely & we don't
need extra number of
people in our town.
Comment Card

Name: Renee Giragos

Hearing Date/Location: Jan. 19, 2017

Contact Info': RGiragos@aol.com / (219) 757-1297

Comment: My preference, as a long time Munster resident, is the "No Build" alternative. I have resided in Munster all my life, and people move to Munster to get away from commotion and traffic, and to be safe. Building onto the SSL (in the West Lake Ridge)
increase traffic and crime in Munster. Residences will be torn down. The town of Munster would resemble more of a larger city. None of these impacts are desirable to most Munster residents. I DID NOT VOTE FOR THIS SSL TO BE BUILT IN my BELOVED TOWN. Wetlands will be lost, residences will be lost, quietness will be lost - if the SSL is built on in the West Lake Corridor.
Comment: Whatever option is chosen for the Munster/Dyer Station, please make sure it fits seamlessly with plans to extend Main to connect with Joe Orr in Illinois. This E/w connection is desperately needed and has been discussed for years. It would relieve pressure on several E/w arteries. While I know the connection is not within the scope of your project to connect, but it is within... Continued
your power to prevent it with your build. 2. If the Munster/Dyer
Station is one side of the track and the parking is on the
other, please make sure to provide an under way or
bridge to connect the two without people having to walk
down to Main Street. 3. You're not showing that the houses
along Frederick that back up to the track are being purchased.
This will have catastrophic impact to those houses, and my
sister's friend will end up being "underwater" on her
mortgage if there is the serious devaluation she's hearing
will happen. You are playing with people's livelihood by
some of your choices, so please reconsider not taking
those houses. 4. For the at-grade crossings, make sure to
add the no-whistle measures so that we don't also have
that constant distraction 20+ times per day. 5. Choosing
to do an at-grade station at Ridge instead of an elevated station
behind the Lake Business Center is causing a huge issue for
way more people than is necessary. That option is not even
under consideration any longer. Why? 6. Hosting this meeting
as a Cattle Call instead of a forum is an insult to Munster.
Name: Michael Gardner

Hearing Date/Location: 1-29-2017 / Munster

Contact Info: (219) 922-9178 (H) 219.849.7009 (W)

Comment: I am a resident of West Lake Subdivision and we are not in favor of making Maino Lane a "through street" for commuters. We have lived in the subdivision 15 years and prior to the early years, cars would fly through looking for alternative ways to Sheffield and Cortland. Eventually...
The sign went up and traffic was back to normal. If Approved, not only will traffic increase but noise as well. There are buses, kids, dogs & school buses during the school year. Could you imagine if some person going to the train go around a school bus and hit a kid? Traffic on Atherton is for residents, not the entire Monstro Area.
Name: Michael Gregoire

Hearing Date/Location: 1-19-17

Contact Info: mj19602011@live.com

Comment: I was told our home on Hohman Ave was safe, it's located South of Briar, can this change?

What % of homes built will be for "low income" use?

This is federally funded?

Hohman Ave is already busy. This will congest it even more?
How will this affect our future taxes?
Name: Mary Rush - Robert Rush

Hearing Date/Location: 1/19/17

Contact Info: 10254 Allison Rd, Munster
Phone: 219-924-4662

Comment: I do not want to move my 85 year old husband, after only moving here 1 year ago. He has never mentioned possibility of this happening.
Name: Ryan E Lamb

Hearing Date/Location: January 19th, 2017

Contact Info: 8250 Barry Ave, Mentor, OH 44060 312-859-9175

Comment: Myself and wife are both in support for the New Train Route proposed by NICTD.
Comment Card

Name: Vivi Lamb

Hearing Date/Location: 1/19/17 / Munster

Contact Info: 312-859-9175

Comment: I am in support for the new train route Munster station proposed by NICTD.
Name: DENNIS LARSON

Hearing Date/Location: MUNSTER 1/19/2017

Contact Info': DENNIS@DU.COMMERCIAL.COM

Comment: WOULD NOT WANT A ENTRANCE/EXIT AT THE SOUTH END OF WEST LAKES SUBDIVISION TO THE TRAIN STATION
Comment Card

Name: MIKE LARSON

Hearing Date/Location: Munster 1/19/17

Contact Info': 219.614.4578

Comment: As a resident of West Lakes subdivision, I prefer the tracks/station and parking to be located on the east side of CSX tracks. However, if the new tracks/station/parking are to be located on the west of CSX, I strongly encourage for there to be a private entrance/exit gate on the south of Margo Lane for West Lakes residents only. Margo Lane was...
never intended to bear all of the non-resident traffic that would happen if the parking lot & Margo were to be connected. Considering the negative impact the Mega-Church at 97th Margo has caused residents of Westlakes, the additional traffic from train parking traveling thru Margo would be a death blow to the residents of Westlakes.

Thank you
Comment Card

Name: Heather Levin

Hearing Date/Location: 1-9-19

Contact Info: heathlev@me.com

Comment: I don't feel comfortable in the room. There is so much anger. I support the train. It will bring more money to the region. The property values are expected to go up (I know that may take a long time but I expect to be here for a long time). I think a lot of people are angry without even listening to the experts. I now that during construction there will be increased traffic but in the long run everyone will benefit. I know that there will ...
There will be some negative impact but the positive will outweigh the negative so much. I hope that the train will be built.

1) Environmental benefit
2) Property value increase
3) Tax dollars coming
4) Attracting individuals working in Chicago
5) Less traffic

Thank you for working hard to make this a more desirable alternative to Illinois.
Name: Dan Linsdorf

Hearing Date/Location: 1-19-17

Comment:
I'VE WORKED FOR COMMERCE RAIL ROAD FOR 30 YEARS. DON'T EVEN THINK THAT TAXES WOULDN'T GO UP FOR A MINUTE. THEY WILL IT'S A MONEY PIT. ARE TAXES ARE HIGH ENOUGH.
Name: [Name]

Hearing Date/Location: [Date/Location]

Contact Info: [Contact Info]

Comment: Given this appears to be a done deal — we are hoping... Ridge station will be eliminated: due to increase in traffic, Spray... Trying to cater their parking, sidewalks are crowded and overall noise. (Ridge + Malis No on) It would be more beneficial to have a station NORTH of Ridge to have a larger impact on the neighborhood south of Ridge.
Name: TERRY MARCZAK

Hearing Date/Location: 1-19-17 CENTENIAL PARK MUSEUM

Contact Info': TERRY MARCZAK AT YAHOO.COM

Comment: DO NOT WANT STATION AT NORTH END OF OYER. THINK WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO VOTE ON THIS. THIS IS NOT FAIR TO U.S. OR THE ANIMALS THAT WILL BE AFFECTED.
Comment Card

Name: Sharon Rish Macketic

Hearing Date/Location: 1-19-17 Washington

Contact Info: 670-0320 or 924-4666

Comment: We went need to know details. When is it. We have to move? 1 either time. Home than what was expected. We had 285 years old. We really need some time. It seems like a done deal to
We need to check ahead. Please look out for traffic.

Robin unpacked all I brought. Very nice. We appreciated it.
Comment Card

Name: Kim Jay Misso

Hearing Date/Location: Munster, Centennial Park

Contact Info: 312-523-4650

Comment: We want this and need it! It will be a great change. The economic impact will be wonderful.
Name: GEORGE MRAK

Hearing Date/Location: JAN. 19 - MUNSTER

Contact Info: gpmrak@gmail.com

Comment: THE EIS DOES NOT ADDRESS VEHICULAR TRAFFIC TIE-UPS ON RIDGE ROAD AT THE PROPOSED MUNSTER STATION, AS WELL AS THE GRADE CROSSING AT 45TH AVENUE. THIS EGRESSIOUS OMISSION RENDERS THE DEIS USELESS AND A NEW ONE MUST BE WRITTEN.
THE DEIS PROJECTS THAT THE MOST SIGNIFICANT TRAFFIC CONGESTION WILL BE AT 173RD STREET IN HAMMOND. THIS IS A BOLD-FACED LIE, AS RIDGE ROAD AND 45TH AVENUE GRADE CROSSINGS WILL SEE CONSIDERABLY MORE TRAFFIC VOLUME THAN 173RD.
Name: Liz Medович
Hearing Date/Location: 1/19/17 — Munster
Contact Info: lizemc ATT.net
Comment: MAKE THIS HAPPEN ASAP!!
We needed this for so long. Unbelievable!
Only question — please make sure “affordable” housing is relevant to Munster housing.
Name: ARTHUR & BARBARA OLEJNICK

Hearing Date/Location: 1-19-17 - CENTENNIAL PK

Contact Info: 219-865-3706

Comment: WE DEMAND A REFERENDUM ON THE WEST LAKE CORRIDOR PROJECT.
WE NEED MORE INFORMATION
Name: Melora Berez

Hearing Date/Location: Hunter MD 1-7-62

Contact Info: melo582@spiegel.com

Comment: The idea of a 24-7 train was to have a place where people could work/need during the day. I don't understand how this train came to be. It runs 24/7 and it扰 on the noise alone. I don't see any benefits to this train. Three critics of the train have said, "It runs 24/7 without any time. Does anyone care?" Some more info: staff this staff with 14 people.
Name: DEBORAH J. PARKER

Hearing Date/Location: MUNSTER - 1/19/17

Contact Info: 219-595-5563 djparker@yahoo.com

Comment: No real service for Munster. It will take away the reason people picked Munster to live in. I graduated from Munster High School in 1967 - where was the train then? I went to work in Chicago by bus.

I returned to Munster and bought a townhouse. This was to be my retirement home. My townhouse is next to the Amtrak tracks - I like the looks of it.
I love the variety of my neighborhood. I like the wildlife - hawks, geese, my birds, small wildlife.

I also pay property taxes over $1,000 a year. I do not think the county will receive that amount from real estate and small town buildings.

I also don't want the crime rate to increase because of parking lots and theft that will come because the cars are there.

I don't want to move. I'm close to my parents, church, and shopping.
Name: Ritesh Pawkh

Hearing Date/Location: 1/17/17 Centennial Audhouse, Munster

Comment: We would like to know which plan is chosen earlier. Our subdivision (Community Estates) is on standstill for new houses since the train project announcement. For most of us that have built our homes, we envisioned a neighborhood where our kids are safe with a place to play. We do not want to be looking at a train track or parking lot every morning or evening. Please add the opinions of the homeowners affected.

Continued →
Name: Thomas E. Perla

Hearing Date/Location: 1-19-17, Mentor

Contact Info: (219) 836-1997, 8721 Chestnut Ave, Mentor 44038

Comment: Are any homes on the West side of Frederick Ave Mentor going to be acquired? If so, when will we know?
Name: Chris Petersen

Hearing Date/Location: Centennial Park

Contact Info': EMAIL: PetersenS@YAHOO.COM

Comment: As a West Lakes Resident, I strongly oppose any access through the neighborhood. Mario Lane traffic is already a concern at times. Concern over buses & children would escalate w/ increased traffic at peak times.

Continued →
Name: Brian Pirok

Hearing Date/Location: 1/19/17 / MUNSTER

Contact Info: bpirok@yahoo.com

Comment: What is the town's plan regarding the projected drop in property values for those with properties directly adjacent to the rail easement.

Continued →
Comment Card

Name: Brian Pizok

Hearing Date/Location: 1/19/17 / Munster

Contact Info: b.pizok@yahoo.com

Comment: What plans does NICTD have to combat the additional congestion at Wilson Station if the extension goes thru? Trains are currently delayed entering and leaving the downtown station on a daily basis.
Comment Card

Name: Mihai Raicu (mike)

Hearing Date/Location: 1/19/17 munster

Contact Info: 708-574-2300

Comment: I will follow up with a more detailed comment electronically, but for now I wanted to say that I am supportive of this West Lake Corridor extension. Through our company, my partners and I have purchased the last large (15 acres) parcel of land in Munster, right in West Lakes neighborhood, bordered by
the train tracks, megan Ln, Exeter and Norwich. We have split up
the land into 34 single family lots for homes and I believe
that this station in West Lakes as well as the entire corridor will
benefit the residents of West Lake gey muncie and nearby commu-
nities. Personally, I have commuted by car into Chicago for the last
10 years and the traffic has been getting worse every year. A train
station within walking/biking distance would be welcome.

I will need to write more online....

I am available to discuss and be supportive. Feel free to call
Comment Card

Name: Stephen Roy

Hearing Date/Location: 1/19/17 - Centennial Park

Contact Info: Ph 219-924-7427 email - rays.pharand@gmail.com

Comment: I believe that the NEPA-preferred alternative provides the best alignment for the proposed rail extension. My main concern is traffic mitigation at the Ridge Road station. I feel that there would be a marked increase in traffic travelling to the parking lot.

Continued →
I think that improving access to the station could entail the use of vans that could pick up and drop off commuters at preselected points around town. For example, portions of the parking lots at Jewel or Target do not see heavy use; perhaps commuters could park there (with permission from the property owner) and use shuttle vans to and from the rail station.
Name: Giovanni Sava

Hearing Date/Location: JAN 19, 2011, Morning, Court

Contact Info: giovanni.sava@yours.com, phone: 219.929.7862

Comment: I fully support the west lake south shore rail expansion.

I'm a monster resident and look forward to the rail station at 178th.

Sheffield. It will be nice to have convenient rail service to Chicago.

We monster residents can avail ourselves to great proximity in Chicago.

Please push forward with the project.
Name: Steven Sharett

Hearing Date/Location: 11/19/17 / Munster

Contact Info:

Comment: Margo Lane Must NOT Connect to

Train Station Parking Lot. This would be disastrous to West Lakes Subdivision. A meeting w/ West Lakes Residents should take place to allow them to comment separately.
Name: Eileen Sheets

Hearing Date/Location: 11/17/17 - Munster

Contact Info: eileensheets@me.com

Comment: I do not understand the need for 2 stations in Munster from a cost-benefit standpoint. It seems like we are making the project too expensive with wish-list kind of planning when 1 station in our town would work and create same economic benefit.
Name: Sunny Shank

Hearing Date/Location: Munster 1/19/17

Contact Info: 836-0065

Comment: I would like a written contract stating there will be no freight trains.

I would also like to be reassured that no property becomes a property between Ridge Rd. and Fisher West of the track itself.
Name: Kelly Stone

Hearing Date/Location: 1-19-17 / Munster

Contact Info: 219-513-9721 SOnsfamily@comcast.net

Comment: Please read letter
Hi, my name is Kelly Sons.

I am going to start out by saying that we are not just people that are in the way, that you can put to the side, or forced to just pick up and move without a fight. We are families with children. We all have feelings and they matter! We matter!!!

We moved into Munster 5 years ago to make a better life or ourselves and our children. We have three kids, two of which have special school needs. We thought when we chose to move here that this is our forever home that fit us perfectly. We found a home with neighbors that we knew, we have a great deal of privacy behind us and are able to see the wildlife all year round.

We moved here in October 2012, and lost both of my inlaws in November 30 hours apart. We buried them on our 5 year olds birthday. They were moved to a new home, lost two grandparents and started new schools. All we have is the new life that we have built here and you just want to come in and put in your train station and parking lot like it does not matter to the people that live here. You want to put this parking lot in our back yard!!

I understand there is not much we can do about the train, but we can fight the parking lot and station. This will invade all of our privacy at every hour of every day. There will be lights, snow plows, car alarms, people talking and looking into our yards at all hours of the day and night. This is unacceptable!

We want to know how long it will take for you to make up your minds about what will be going on with our lives. We need an answer!! Are our property values going to rise, drop, or are you going to buy us out? What is your guarantee to us for making all of these critical changes to our lives? We don’t even feel like we can change an outlet in our houses or make any changes or improvements because we don’t know if we will be here. How fair is that? The decisions you have or have not made yet are messing with our lives right now. Our mental and physical health is in the balance. This is not a game or business dealing to us.

WE WANT ANSWERS.

Kelly Sons
8420 Harrison Ave
Munster, IN 46321
219-513-4724
Comment Card

Name: Brian Stewart

Hearing Date/Location: 1/19/17 - Munister

Contact Info: 8510 Garfield Ave.

Comment: The truck is 50' out my back door. I have rent an apartment for a young big family, and with a train running behind my name will make it impossible to sell to big young family. This in itself is a form of value drop in my home. I get it, it's coming but I...
could at least see a tax reduction on
elimination for thoughts directly impacted
like I am.

Thanks for reading.

Ben Aronow
Name: A. Susareny
Hearing Date/Location: 1-9-17
Contact Info:
Comment: Concern over noise level. Environmental impact on wetlands.
Comment Card

Name: PAUL TAYLOR

Hearing Date/Location: MUNSTER 1/19

Contact Info: PTAYLOR9900@GMAIL.COM

Comment: VENUE WAY TO SMALL. NO OPEN COMMUNITY DISCUSSION. REALLY! THE PROJECT PEOPLE MANNING THE DISPLAY EASELS HAD NO REAL INFORMATION. WHILE I WANTED TO ATTEND TO HAVE MY SAY, THE
WHOLE EVENT WAS A WASTE OF TIME. THIS IS A DONE DEAL REGARDLESS OF WHAT EFFECT IT HAS ON THE RESIDENTS BEING DISPLACED. EMINENT DOMAIN AT ITS WORST.

I MOVED INTO THE WESTLAKES SUBDIVISION 18 YEARS AGO. WE WERE TOLD THAT THE "PARKING LOT" WAS RESIDENTIAL. YOU CAN SEE WHERE THAT ENDED UP.

VERY DISAPPOINTED IN THE WHOLE PROCESS.
Comment Card

Name: Dan Tsatapos

Hearing Date/Location: 1-19-17

Contact Info: 773.991.7607

Comment: Do Not Allow Access to the parking lot from Margo Lane

Continued
Name: [Handwritten: Cathy]

Hearing Date/Location: 1-19 Munster

Contact Info: 

Comment: 1. What is the anticipated budget for future crime with anticipated people riding this train from other areas?

2. East Chicago, Hammond, and Michigan City

Continued →
have had the South Shore for years and their towns have not flourished. Why is this going to be any different?
Name: Cathy

Hearing Date/Location: 1/19 Munster

Contact Info:

Comment:
1. What are the plans for Main Street traffic & Sheffield traffic?

2. This project is relocating families.
bike trails, interfering with wetlands. Are there any other issues that will be forthcoming without public knowledge?

3. We are trying to promote job growth in NW Indiana. This project is for sending 3000 or so people to work in Chicago. How is this promoting our growth?
Name: ________________________________

Hearing Date/Location: 1/19/17

Contact Info: ________________________

Comment: Plant Waste off lane

Continued →
Name: ____________________________

Hearing Date/Location: ____________________________

Contact Info: ____________________________

Comment: MORE TRAINS, MORE CONGESTION ON ALREADY PLUGGED UP 45TH + CALUMET. GET THE ROAD FIXED FIRST - UNDERPASS/OVERPASS BUILD IT NOW.
Comment:

There's enough congestion in town already plus the town will not be so quiet. If we move here to get away from the hustle bustle of Chicago I like to drive the distance in my own car instead of standing on
Sitting next to a smelly loud person

Don't like the stop and go from station to station. I like the drive and the town is nice as is. Stop trying to boost it up!

Who really is going to shop here most people shop online now. Think!! for what's broke first (Schools) before we start jumping into something new! Needs to be thought MORE IT!!
Section 8 housing or
apartments put in because of this train. 
The Federal money coming in so there
gonna want more Section 8 available. We don't
need to do that.

I hope the wall covering the Sound is Higher
Phu N. Fook.
Name: Ed Veisberg

Hearing Date/Location: Centennial Park 1-19-17

Contact Info:

Comment: The light and noise pollution is unavoidable. Having people move would not be right.
Not sure about demolishing historical buildings. It is not too far just to drive to the South Shore Station. There are always unexpected issues that...
may occur during construction, I am opposed of the project.
Name: Traci & Bobby Vrekas

Hearing Date/Location: 1-19-17 / Munster Centennial

Contact Info: 239-634-0911

Comment: We hope to see the expansion of the tenth show into Munster. This would be very positive for our community.
Comment Card

Name: Walt Uebler

Hearing Date/Location: Munster

Contact Info: 

Comment: Do not want the SS to come to Munster.
Name: C. N. WHITE

Hearing Date/Location: Munster 1/19

Contact Info: 219-713-3250

Comment: This is a fantastic project.
    Love the Hammond connection.
    We drive to Chicago 3x week
    and look forward to being able
    to take train. Can this be done sooner.
Also very excited about impact of increased housing values.

Thank you!!!
Name: Traci & Tony Zangala

Hearing Date/Location: 1-19-17/Munster/Centennial

Contact Info': 219-218-0007

Comment: We want the train! Bring it to Munster!
Name: David Zawada

Hearing Date/Location: 1/19/2017 -- Munster

Contact Info: david.zawada@att.net

Comment: I would like to have a Quiet Zone to be considered at all at-grade crossings - no horn blowing. Many communities have this in the Chicago area.