

Purpose of Workshop

- Project Overview
- Share Information on Project Updates
- Seek Input on Alternatives and Options
- Define How You Can Be Involved



Study Overview

- **FTA and NICTD are Conducting an Environmental Review of the West Lake Corridor**
- **The Study includes Rail Based Service between the Munster/Dyer area and Metra's Millennium Station in Downtown Chicago**
- **The Study evaluates Alignments, Stations and Operating Facility Locations in the Corridor**

How Did We Get Here?

- Regional Agency Conducted Initial Study 1989
- NICTD Completed *West Lake Corridor Study* 2011
- Released *20-Year Strategic Business Plan* June 2014
- *Began Environmental Review Process* Sept 2014



Federal Lead Agency:
Federal Transit Administration (FTA)

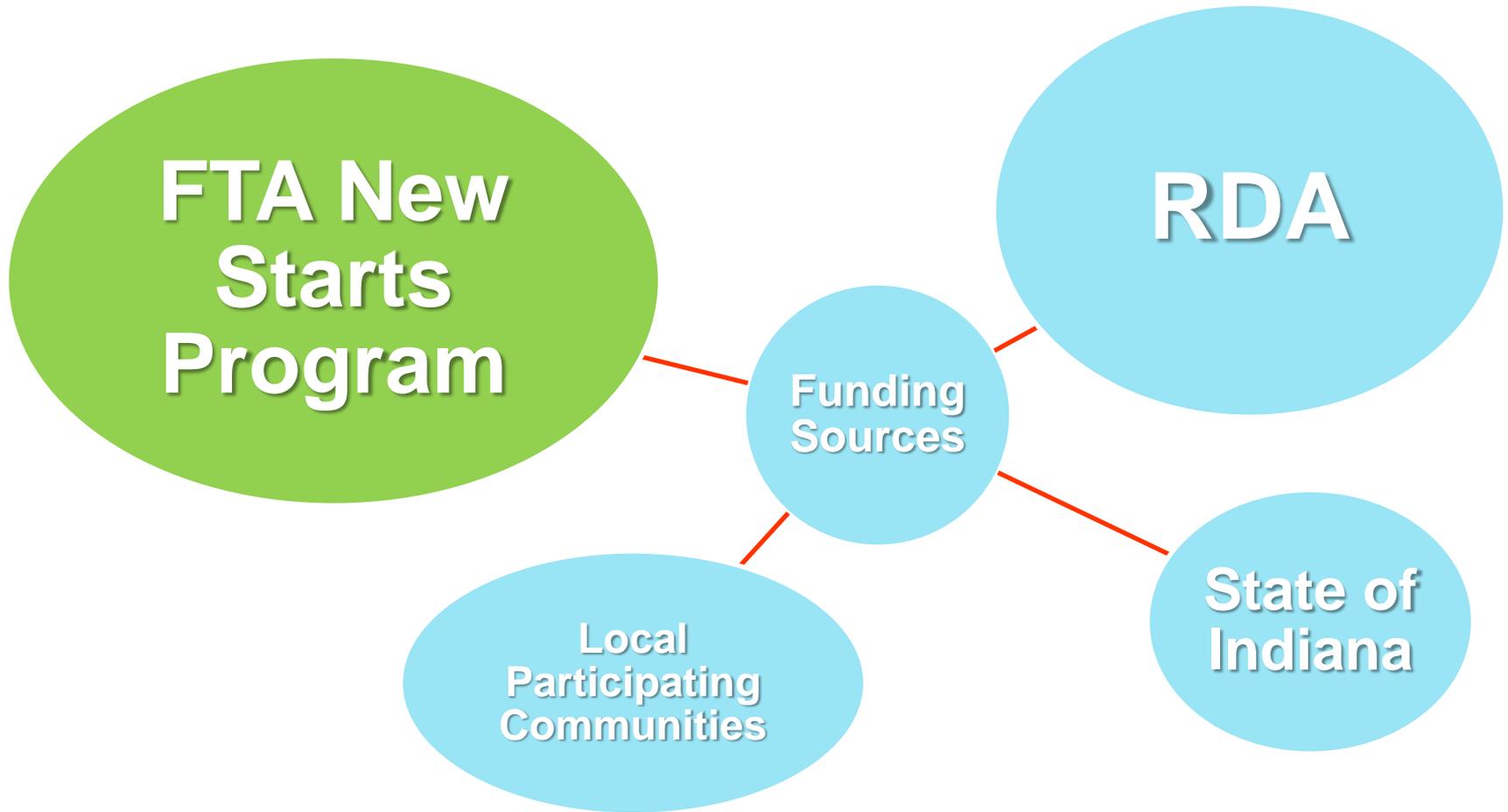


Local Lead Agency:
Northern Indiana Commuter
Transportation District



Prepare
Environmental
Impact Statement
(EIS) under
National
Environmental
Policy Act (NEPA)

TEX Rail Funding Sources



What is Purpose and Need for Project?

- **Serve High-Growth Areas in Lake County**
- **Conveniently Connect to Chicago**
- **Establish Alternative to Driving**
- **Lower Commute Times and Costs**
- **Increase NICTD System Ridership**
- **Promote Economic Development**
- **Create Local Jobs**
- **Attract and Retain Younger Families**
- **Provide Valued Transportation Asset**



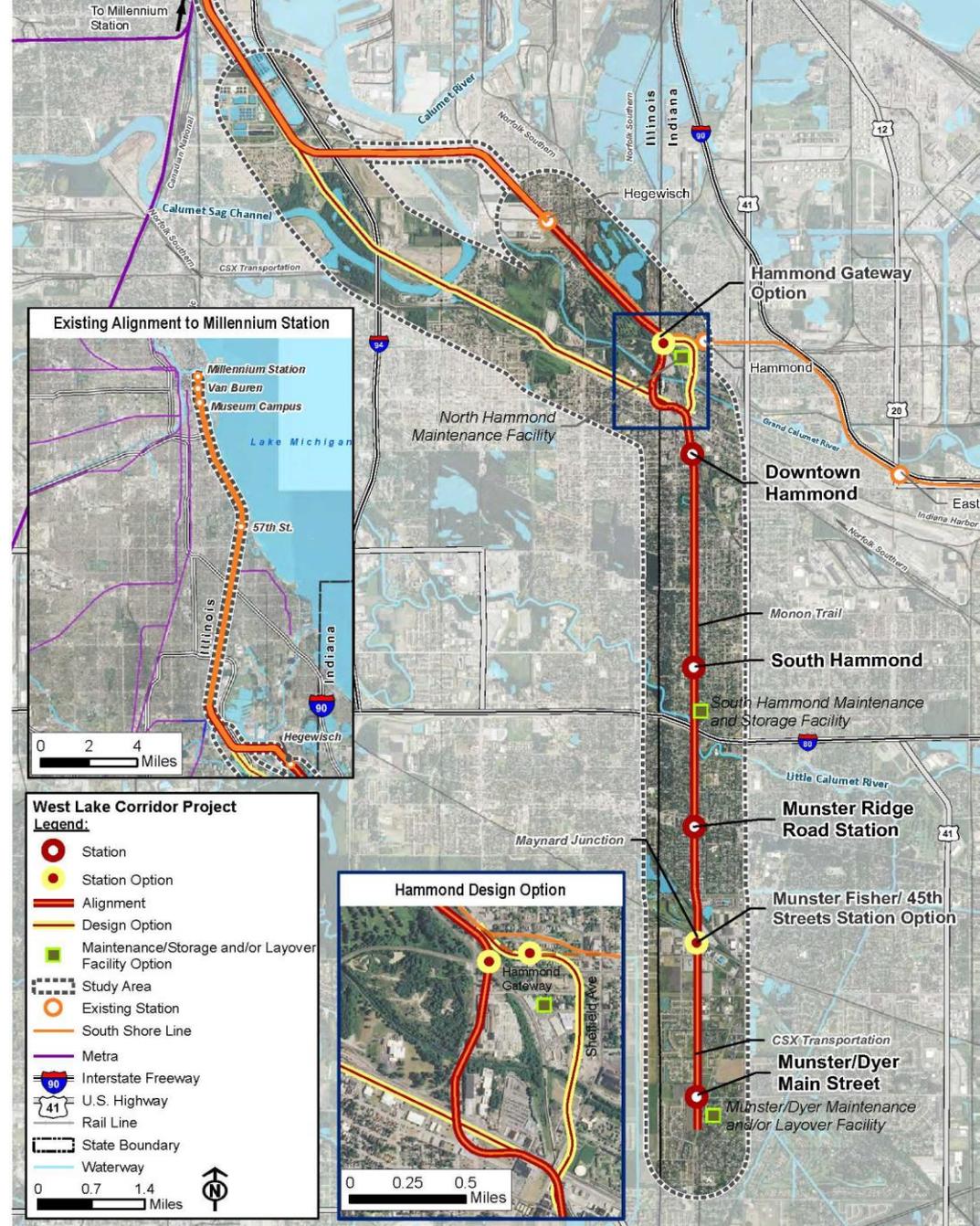
Study Purpose

- **Advance West Lake Corridor Project**
 - Complete Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) in Compliance with NEPA
 - Select a Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA)
 - Enter Project Development under FTA New Starts



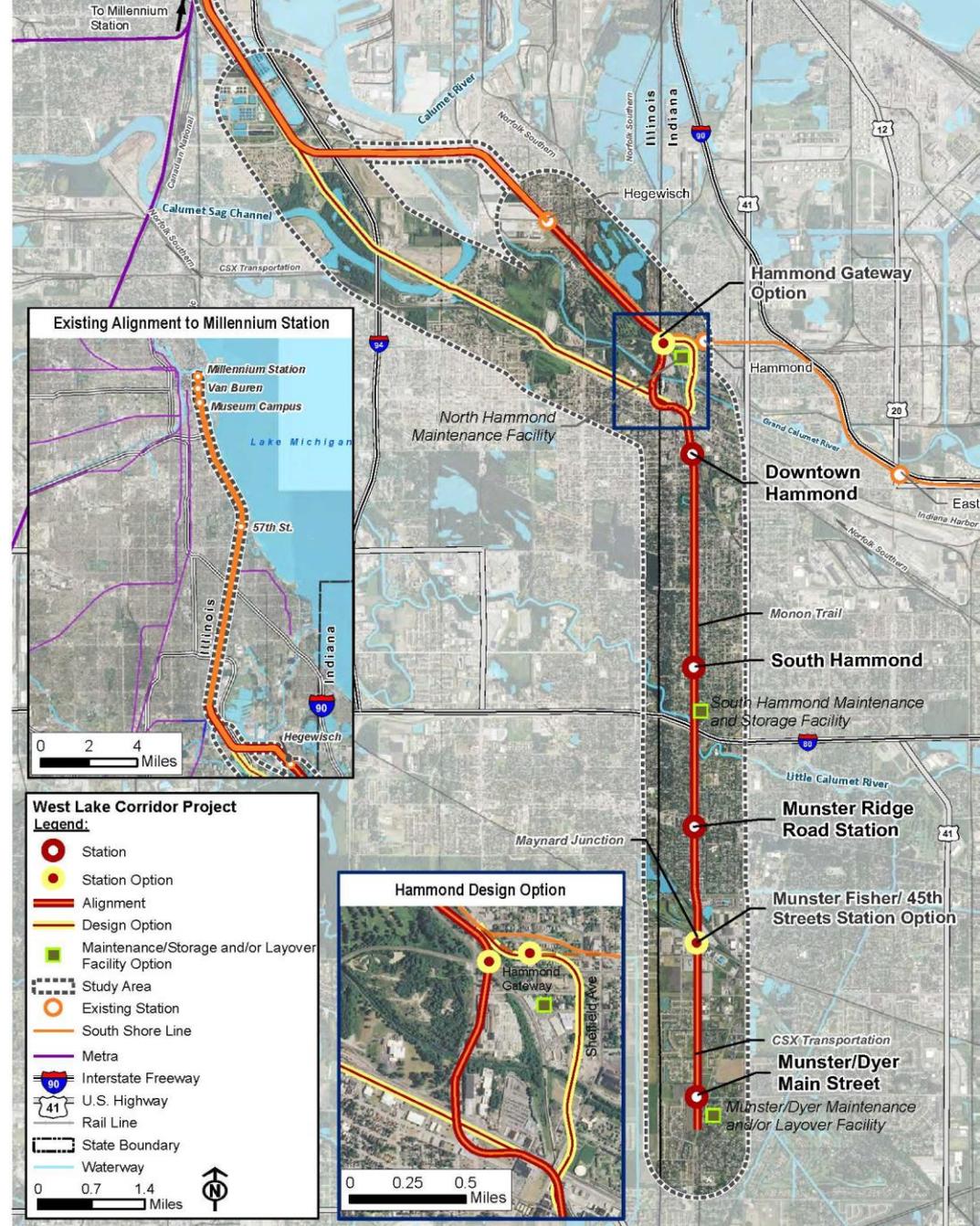
West Lake Project Overview

- 9-Mile Extension of Existing South Shore Line (SSL)
- 12 Trains per Weekday
- 4 Stations in Hammond, Munster, and Dyer
- Maintenance Facility
- Options for Alignment, Stations, Maintenance and Layover Facilities



Alternative Options

- Indiana Harbor Belt (IHB) Alignment
- Hammond Design Option Alignment
- Station Options
 - Hammond
 - Munster
- Maintenance Facility
 - Hammond – 2 sites
 - Munster/Dyer
- Layover Facility
 - Munster/Dyer

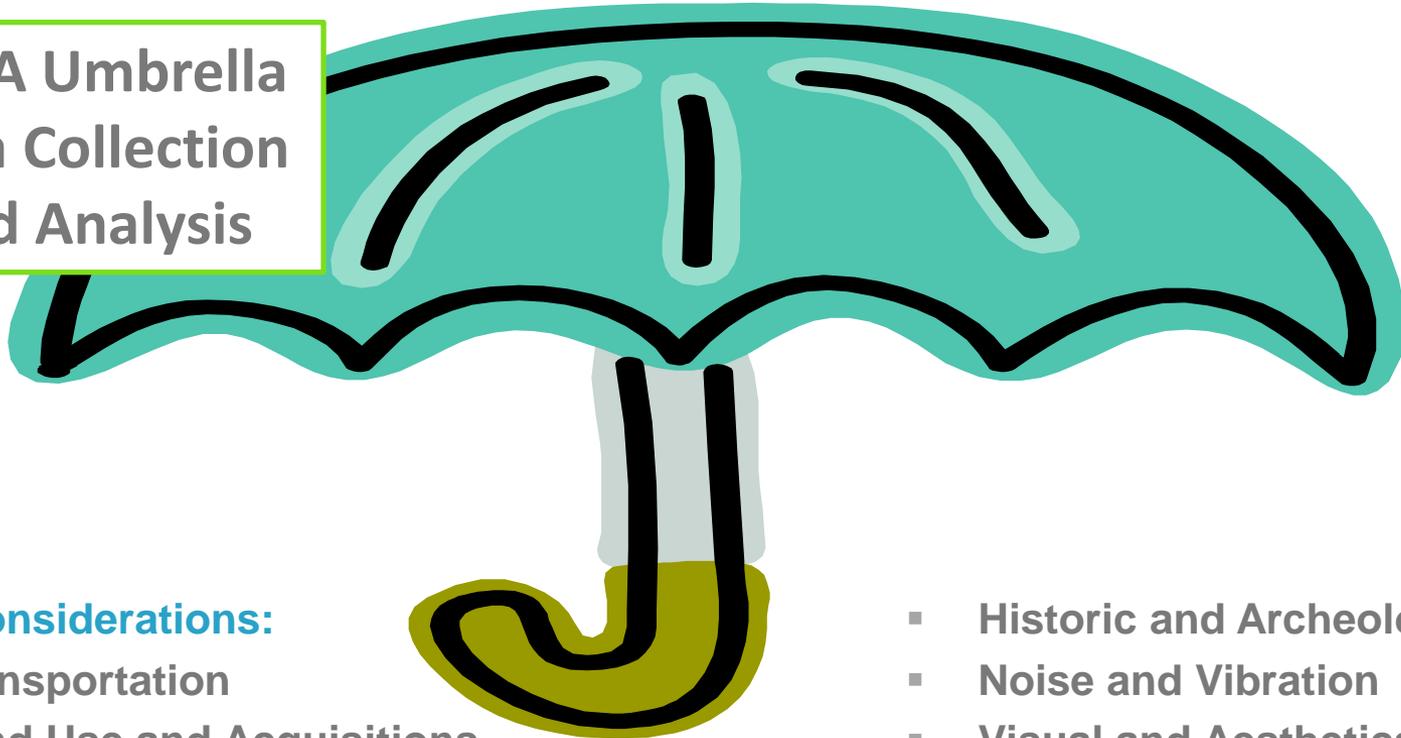


Why So Many Alternatives?

- Required to evaluate all feasible alternatives meeting the purpose and need of the project
- To consider and evaluate each alternative in a comparable level of detail
- Field work is included for all alternatives minimizing the need for additional investigation

National Environmental Policy Act

NEPA Umbrella Data Collection and Analysis



Key Considerations:

- Transportation
- Land Use and Acquisitions
- Economic Development
- Neighborhoods and Community Facilities
- Environmental Justice
- Parks and Recreational
- Historic and Archeological
- Noise and Vibration
- Visual and Aesthetics
- Water and Ecological
- Farmlands
- Hazardous Materials
- Safety and Security
- Short-Term Construction

What is a DEIS?

- **Required for Federal Funding**
- **Discloses Impacts of the project and Proposed Mitigation Measures**
- **Improves Decision Making**
- **Serves as a Means for Public Comment**
- **Follows NEPA Requirements for Documentation**
- **Public Hearing is Part of the Required Process**

Environmental Impact Statement Process

WE ARE HERE

Scoping and Screening

- Identify Issues
- Develop and screen alternatives

Draft EIS

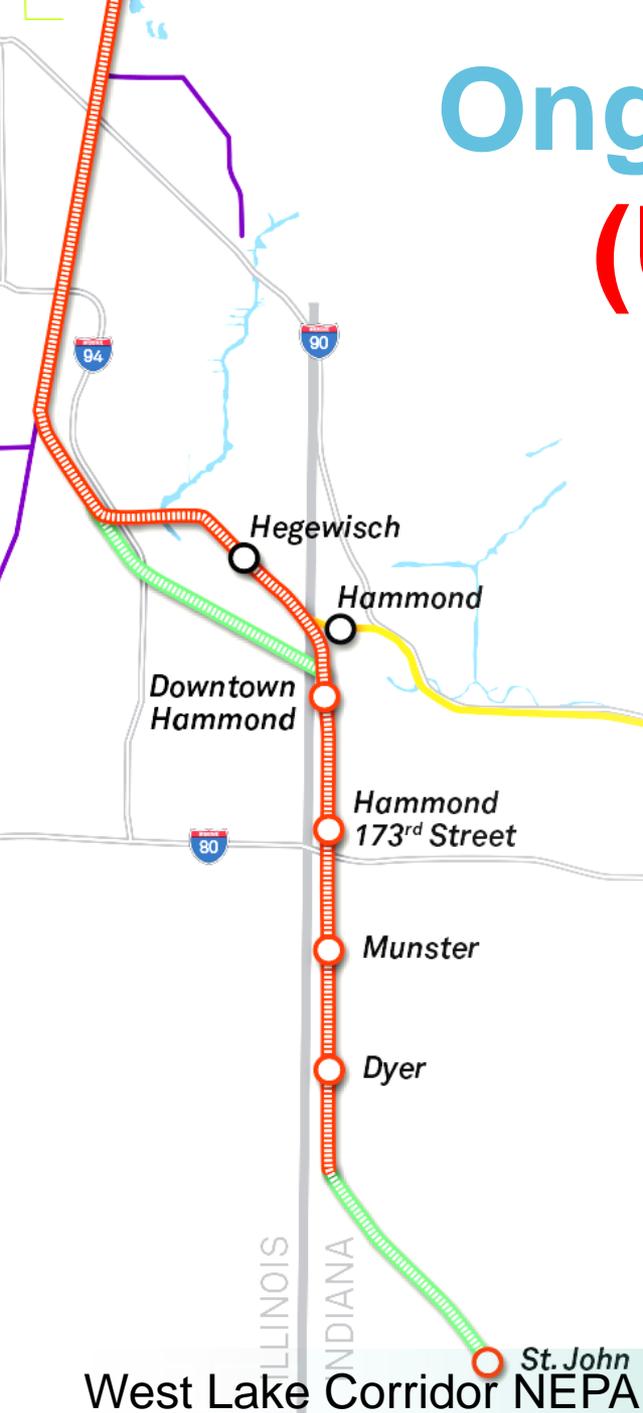
- Data Collection and Analysis
- Prepare Technical Reports
- Prepare Draft EIS on remaining alternatives
- Circulate Draft EIS
- Hold Public Hearings

Final EIS Record of Decision

- Prepare request to enter Project Development
- Respond to comments
- Prepare Final EIS
- Prepare Record of Decision

Ongoing Coordination (Update Map)

- Federal Transit Administration
- Regional Development Authority
- Municipalities
- Railroads
- US Army Corps of Engineers
- State Historic Preservation Office



Project Updates

- Southern Terminal
- Railroad Requirements
- Conceptual Design
 - Vehicle Technology
 - Alignments Alternatives
 - Station Location Options
 - Maintenance Facility Location Options
 - Bike Trail Location in the Corridor



Vehicle Technology

- Existing South Shore Electric Trains





Hegewisch Station, SSL

Stations

- Boarding Platforms
- Shelters
- Parking
- Multi-Modal Access



Dune Park Station, SSL



East Chicago Station, SSL



Denton County A-Train Maintenance Facility

Maintenance Facility

- Shop Building for Maintenance of Vehicles
- Storage Tracks
- Parking and Support Facilities

Layover Facility

- Welfare Building for Crew
- Storage Tracks for Overnight Layover
- Parking

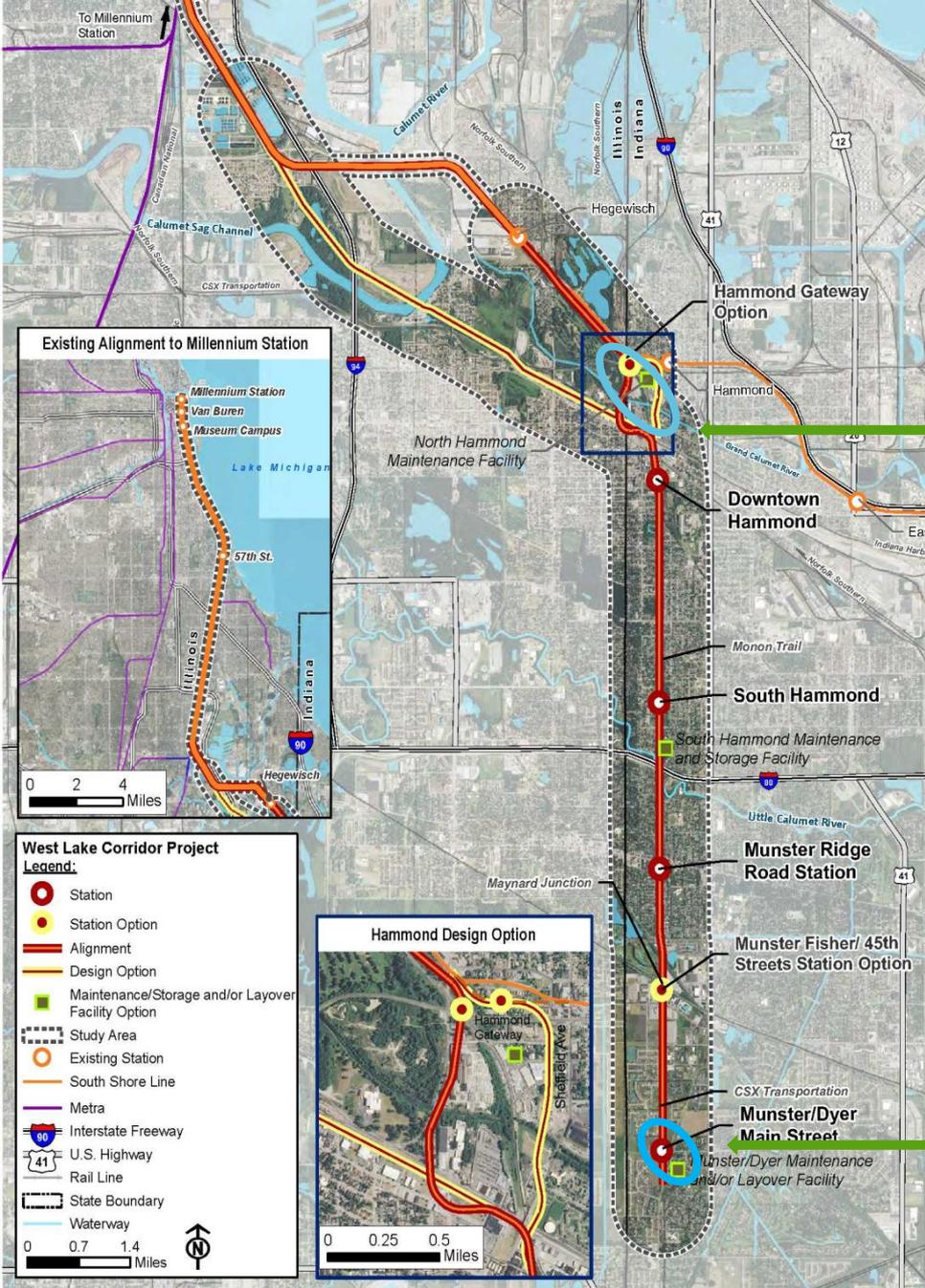


Metra Electric District – Richton Layover

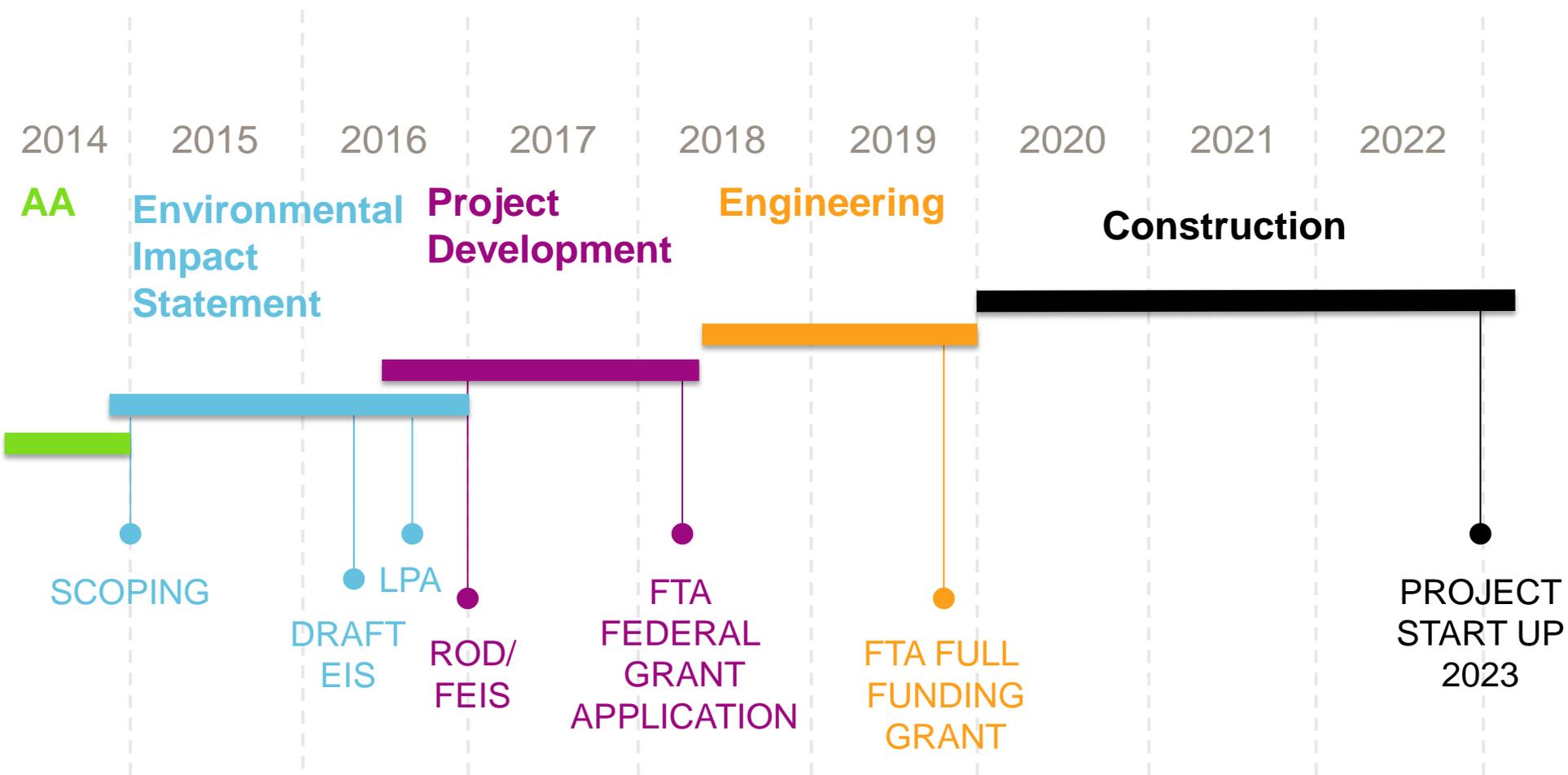
Operations Facilities

If maintenance facility is here...

...layover facility is needed here

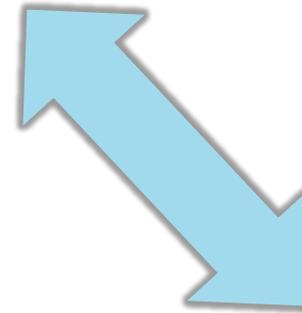
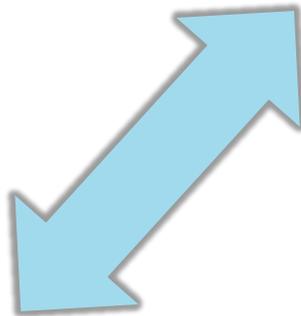


West Lake Overall Project Schedule



Key to Success: Partnerships

NICTD



**Community,
Stakeholder &
Agency
Partners**



Next Steps

- **Public Workshops – November 2015**
- **DEIS Public Review – Spring 2016**
- **DEIS Public Hearings – Spring 2016**
- **Begin Project Development – Summer 2016**

How Can You Participate and Stay Informed

- Project Website: <http://www.nictdwestlake.com/>
- Email: project.email@nictdwestlake.com
- Call: 219-250-2920
- Mail: NICTD West Lake Corridor Project
33 East U.S. Highway 12
Chesterton, IN 46304

Workshop Breakout Areas

1. Project Overview
2. Environmental Process
3. Alignment Options
4. Station and Facility Options



WEST LAKE CORRIDOR PROJECT NICD

Northern Indiana Commuter Transportation District

THANK YOU!

