



WEST LAKE CORRIDOR

# PROJECT NICD

Northern Indiana Commuter Transportation District

Scoping Meeting

October 28, 2014



# Purpose of Scoping Meeting

- Start Federal Environmental Review Process
- Share Information
- Seek Input
- Define How You Can Be Involved



# History of Project

- 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



# National Environmental Policy Act

## NEPA Umbrella



Transportation, Land Use & Zoning, Land Acquisitions & Displacements, Socioeconomics & Economic Development, Environmental Justice, Neighborhoods & Community Facilities, Parks & Recreational, Historic & Archeological

Noise & Vibration, Visual & Aesthetics, Air Quality, Energy, Farmlands and Soils, Water, Threatened and Endangered Species, Hazardous Materials, Safety & Security, Utilities, Short-Term Construction Impacts, Secondary & Cumulative Effects

# Draft EIS Document

## Project Scoping

- Purpose and Need
- Alternatives Considered
- Key Issues Addressed

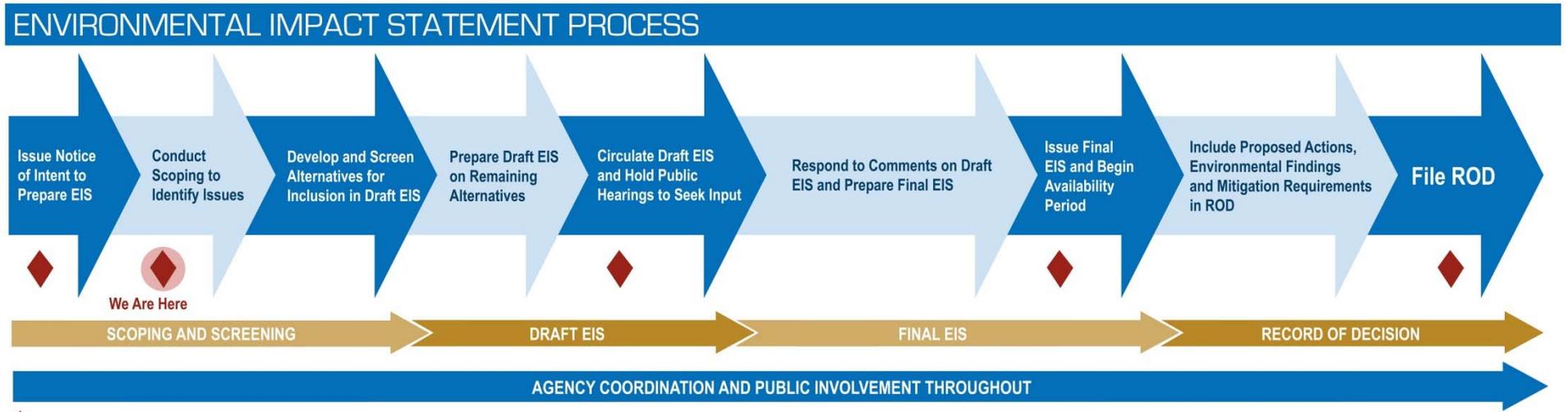
## Impact Assessment

- Transportation
- Social, Community, and Economic
- Natural Environment

## Document Preparation & Review

- Affected Environment, Potential Impacts, and Mitigation
- Public and Agency Review and Comment
- Responses to Comments

# Overall EIS Process



NOTE: A single Final EIS and ROD can be issued under MAP-21, unless FTA determines a combined document is not possible.

EIS = Environmental Impact Statement

ROD = Record of Decision

# What is Scoping?

- **First Step in Environmental Review Process**
  - Allows for Early Coordination and Outreach
- **Notify Public and Agencies**
  - Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) being Prepared
  - Solicit Input on Process and Project
- **Helps Guide “Scope” and Content of EIS**
  - Purpose and Need for Project
  - Alternatives Considered
  - Key Issues Addressed

# 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**



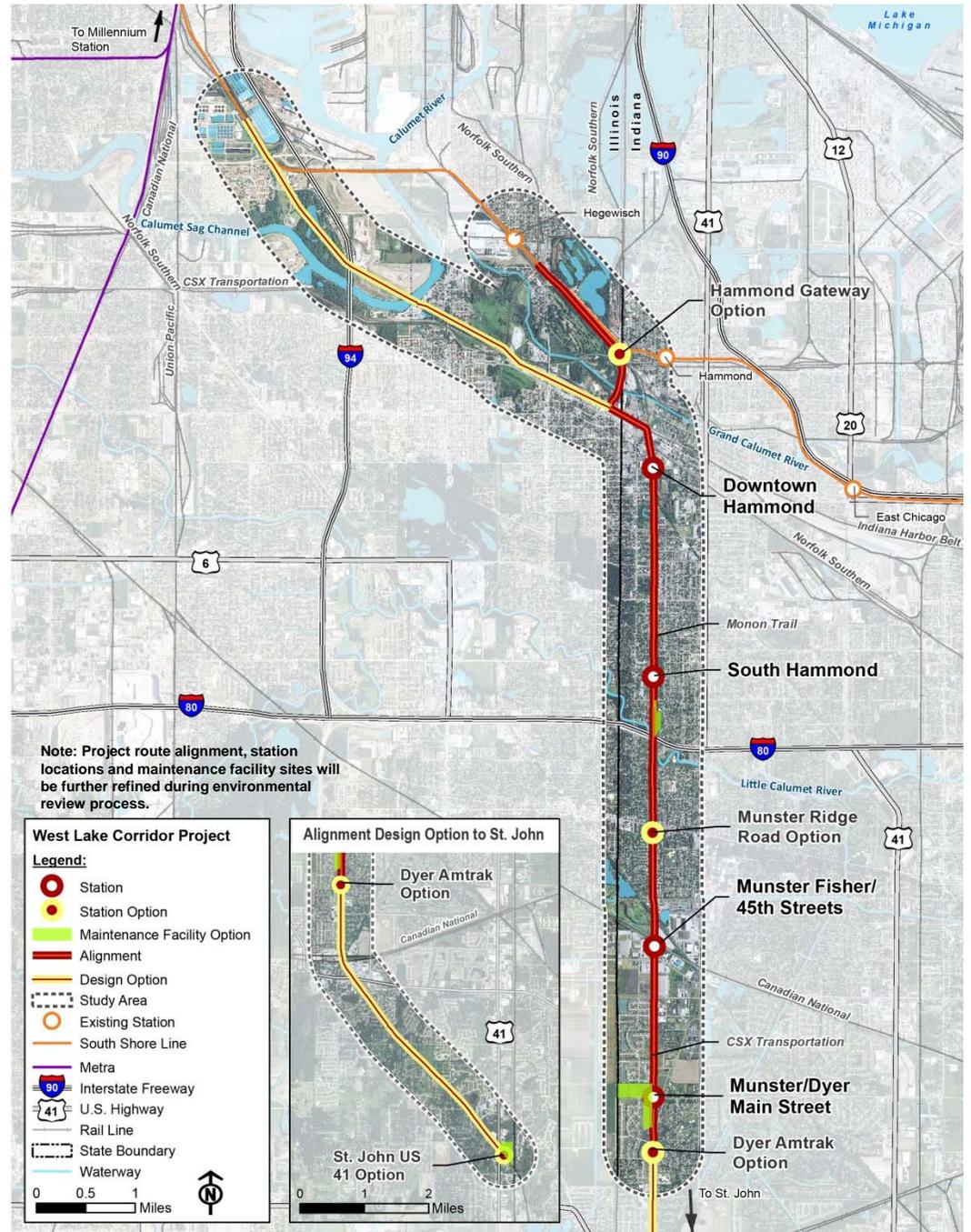
# What is being Studied?

- **No Build Alternative**
  - Existing System and Planned Projects
  - Basis of Comparison
- **Commuter Rail Alternative**



# Commuter Rail Alternative

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



# Stations

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



Hegewisch Station, SSL



Beverly Shores Station, SSL



East Chicago Station, SSL



Metra Storage Yard Tracks, Elburn, IL

# Maintenance Facility

- Shop Building for Maintenance of Vehicles
- Storage Yard Tracks for 6 Locomotives and 46 Cars
- Parking and Other Facilities



Metra Shop Building, 14<sup>th</sup> Street, Chicago, IL



NICTD Shop Building, Michigan City, IN



Metra Diesel Locomotive

# Vehicle Options

- Diesel
- Electric
- Combined Diesel/Electric



NICTD South Shore Electric Vehicles



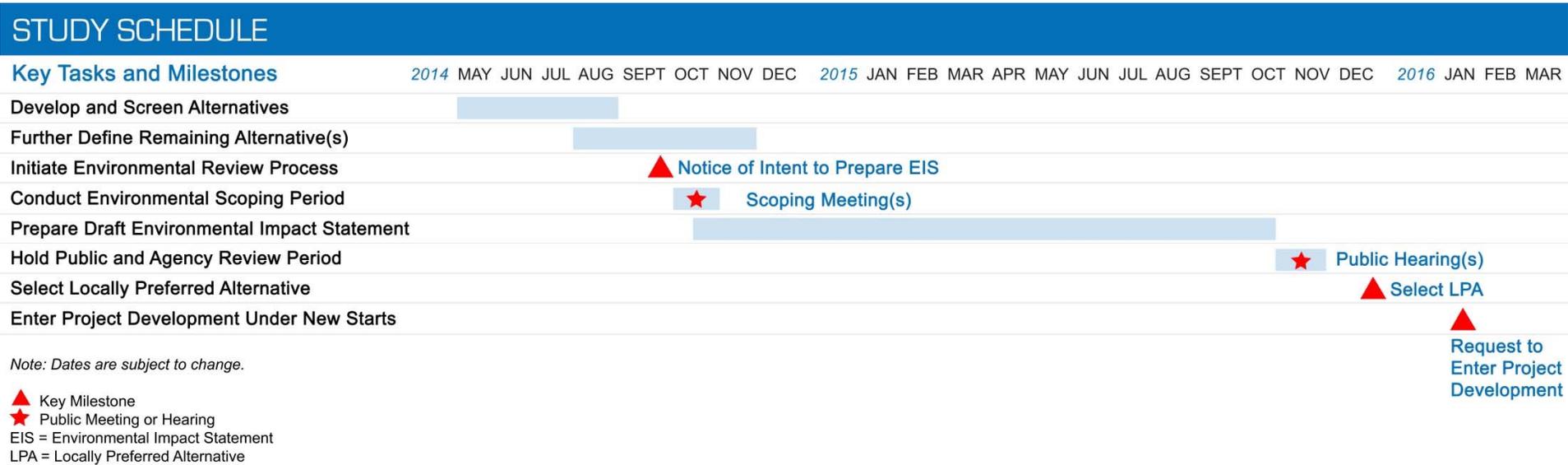
Combined Diesel/Electric Locomotive in Montréal

# What are Key Environmental Considerations?

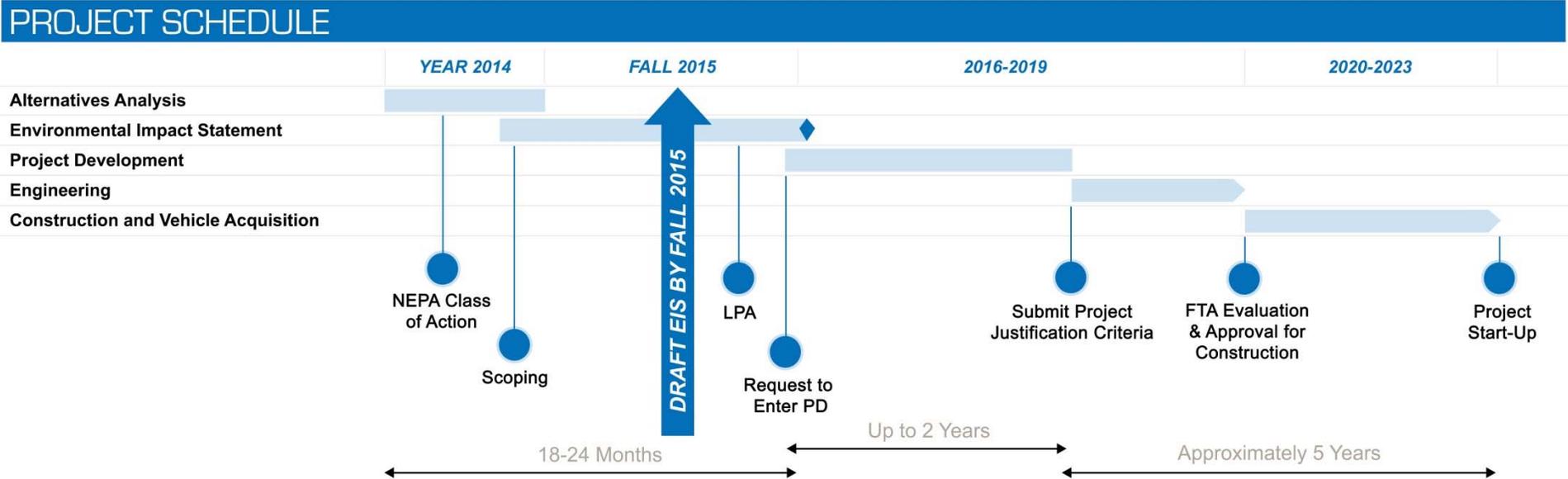
- Transportation
- Land Use and Acquisitions
- Economic Development
- Neighborhoods and Community Facilities
- Environmental Justice
- Parks and Recreational
- Historic and Archeological
- Noise and Vibration
- Visual and Aesthetics
- Farmlands and Soils
- Water and Ecological
- Hazardous Materials
-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



# What are Next Steps in EIS?



# What is Overall Project Schedule?



*Note: Dates are subject to change*

NEPA = National Environmental Policy Act  
 LPA = Locally Preferred Alternative  
 ROD = Record of Decision  
 FTA = Federal Transit Administration

# How Can You Participate?

- **Today's Scoping Meeting**
  - Review Information on Display Boards and Handouts
  - Provide Written Comments on Comment Cards
  - Provide Comments Verbally to Court Reporter
- **Additional Opportunities**
  - Project Website: <http://www.nictdwestlake.com/>
  - E-mail: [project.email@nictdwestlake.com](mailto:project.email@nictdwestlake.com)
  - Automated Phone: 219-250-2920
  - Mail: NICTD West Lake Corridor Project  
33 East U.S. Highway 12  
Chesterton, IN 46304
- **Public Comment Period and Hearing in Fall 2015**

***Please Submit Scoping Comments By November 11, 2014***



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THANK YOU!



NICD