

Purpose of Scoping Meeting

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



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

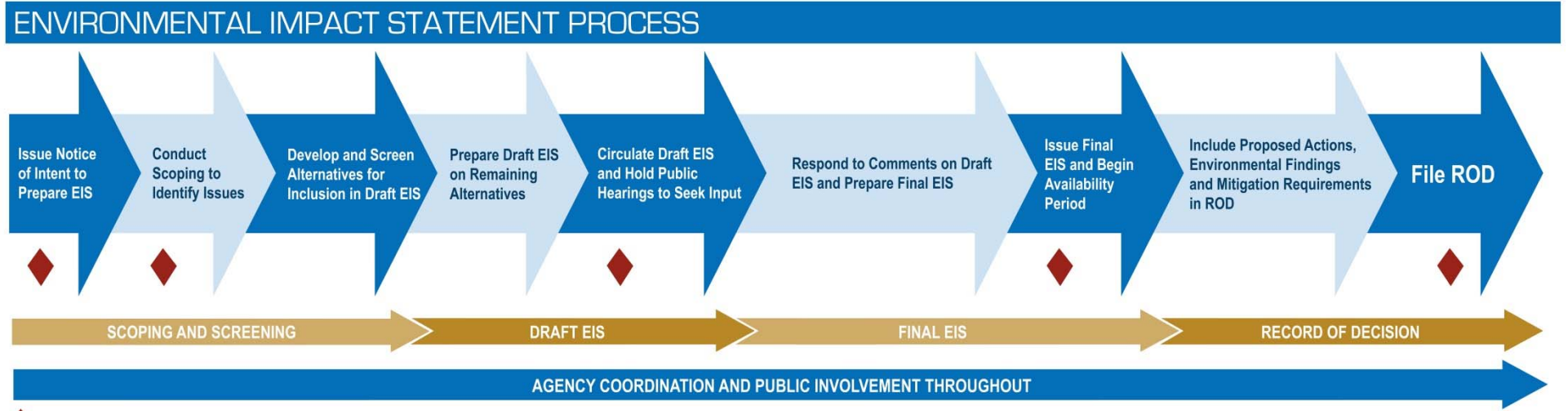
Impact Assessment

- 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



◆ Official Public Opportunity for Comment during 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 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**



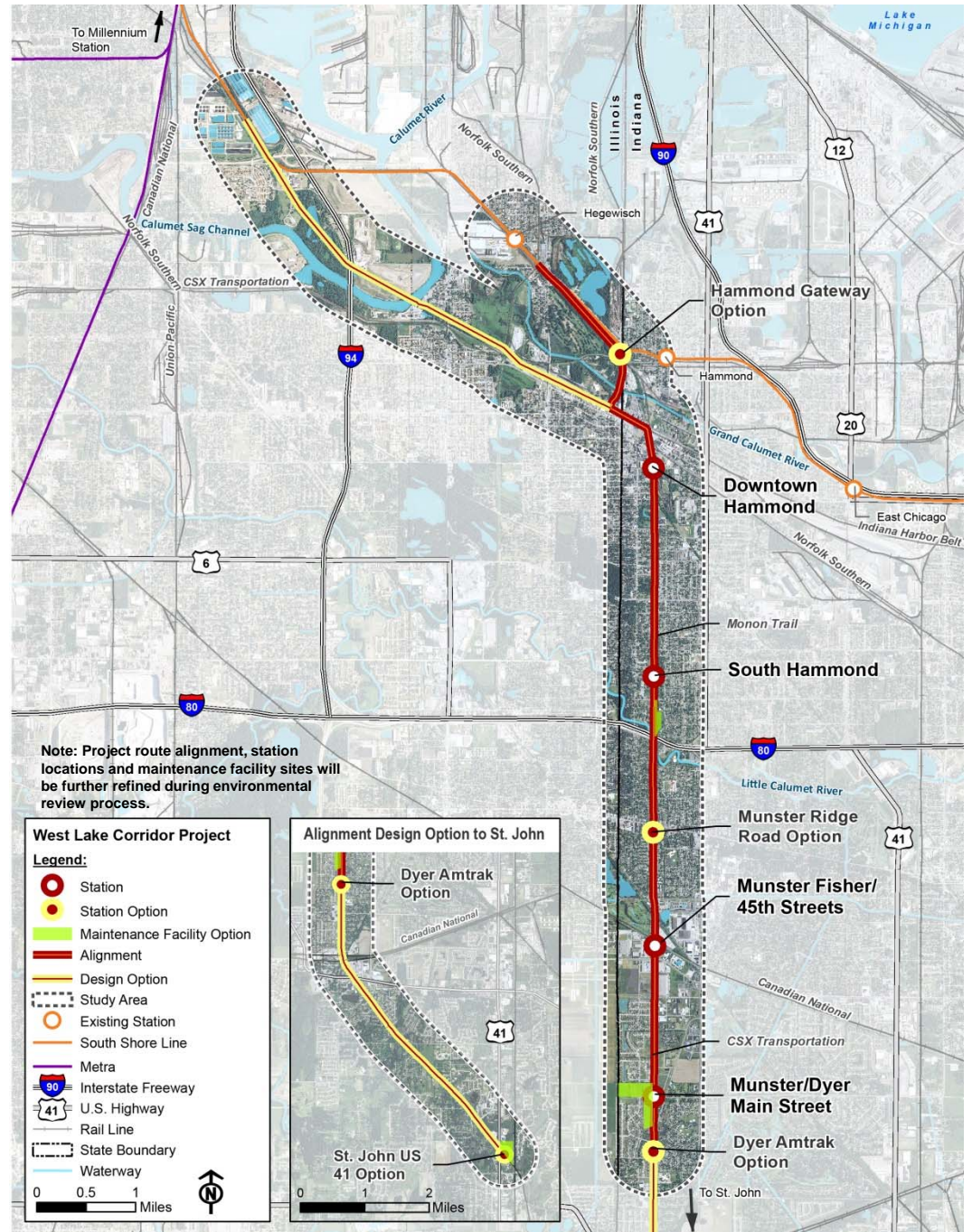
What is being Studied?

- **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

Maintenance Facility

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



Metra Storage Yard Tracks, Elburn, IL



Metra Shop Building, 14th Street, Chicago, IL



NICTD Shop Building, Michigan City, IN



Metra Diesel Locomotive

Vehicle Options

- Diesel
- Electric
- Combined Diesel/Electric



NICTD South Shore Electric Vehicles



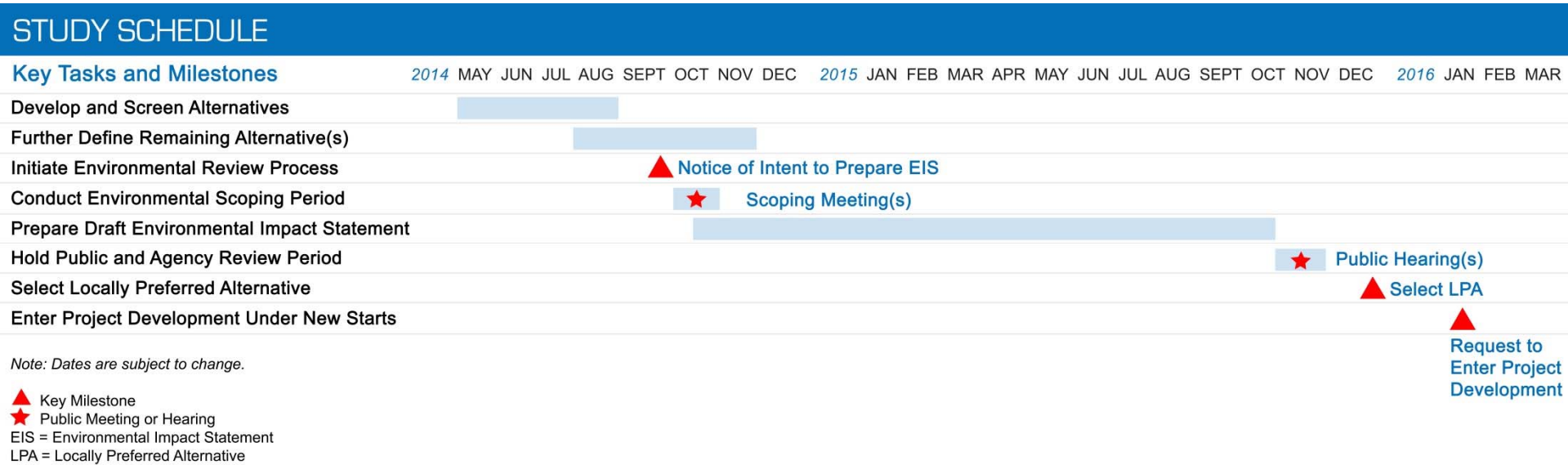
Combined Diesel/Electric Locomotive in Montréal

What are Key Environmental Considerations?

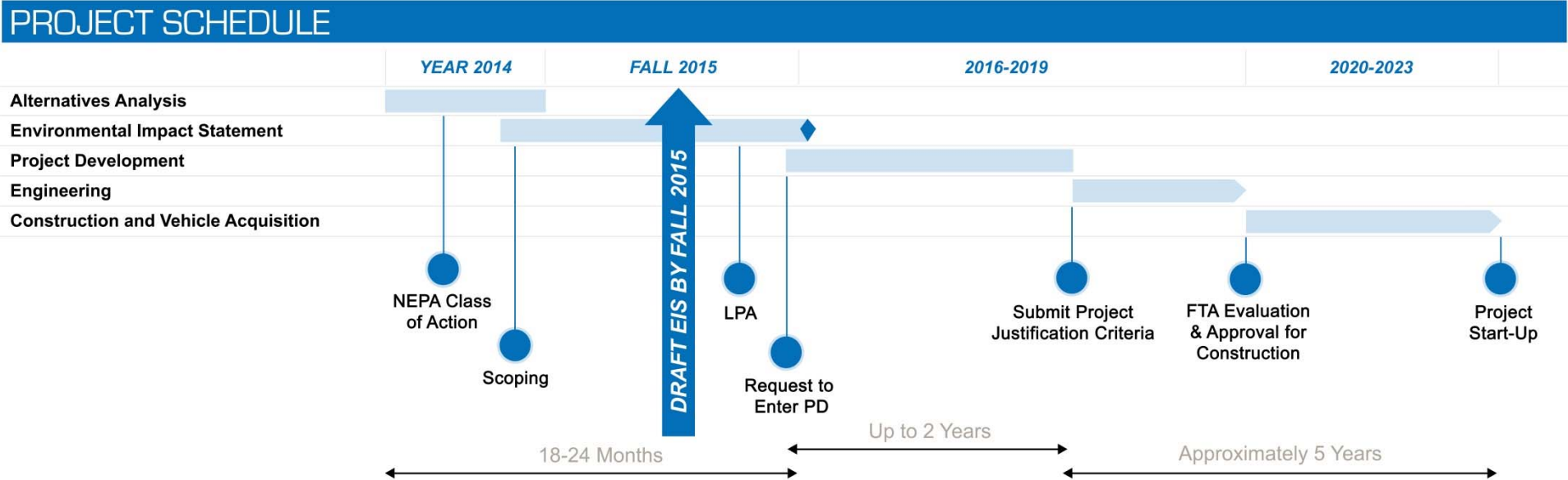
- Transportation
- Land Use and Acquisitions
- Economic Development
- Neighborhoods and Community Facilities
- Environmental Justice
- Parks and Recreational
- Historic and Archeological
- Noise and Vibration
- Visual and Aesthetics
- Farmlands and Soils
- Water and Ecological
- Hazardous Materials
-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