

Project Overview

The Northern Indiana Commuter Transportation District (NICTD) proposes to expand its commuter rail service through an approximate eight-mile extension of the South Shore Line (SSL), known as the West Lake Corridor Project (Project). The line would be extended to the south to provide passenger rail service to three municipalities in Lake County, Indiana: Hammond, Munster and Dyer. Trains on the new branch line would connect with the existing SSL and ultimately with the Metra Electric District (MED) line to the north to Millennium Station in downtown Chicago—a total distance of approximately 30 miles.

This Project would provide a vital transportation link connecting northwest Indiana with Chicago and Cook County, Illinois. It would also expand NICTD's service coverage, improve mobility and accessibility, and stimulate local job creation and economic development opportunities for Lake County.

What Happens Next?

In March 2019, NICTD received a positive Medium-High rating for the project from FTA. NICTD is awaiting approval from the FTA to enter into the final engineering phase of the project.

NICTD issued a Request for Proposal seeking engineers and construction contractors to design and build the West Lake Project. With a Design-Build approach, the engineers and contractor work under a single contract with NICTD to provide integrated design and construction services. The combined Design-Build approach can save money by compressing the schedule and using one team from conceptual design through completion.

Following review of the proposals, a Best Value Offeror was identified. Negotiations are underway and the Design-Build contract is expected to be awarded in 2020.

Key Milestones



- EIS Process: 2014 to 2018
- Property Acquisition: to begin in mid-2019
- Engineering and Construction: 2020 to 2026
- Project Completion: 2026

Project Cost



Current capital cost estimate for the project, with the addition of the Gateway Station in North Hammond, is \$852M. Capital costs will be updated as the project and design are further refined.

Approximate Length: 8 Miles

dedicated guideway

4 Stations

Hammond Gateway
South Hammond
Munster Ridge Road
Munster/Dyer Main Street

Operating Schedule:

12 trips to/from Millennium Station (weekday peak)

12 trips connecting to South Shore Line (SSL) Trains at Hammond Gateway (weekday off-peak)

Parking:

Each proposed station concept design includes a parking lot, Kiss-and-Ride area, and ADA parking area.

Travel Time:

47 Minutes Munster/Dyer Main Street to Millennium Station in Chicago

14 Minutes Munster/Dyer Main Street to Hammond Gateway Station

Maintenance & Storage:

New combined facility in north Hammond to take advantage of shared facilities and central location.

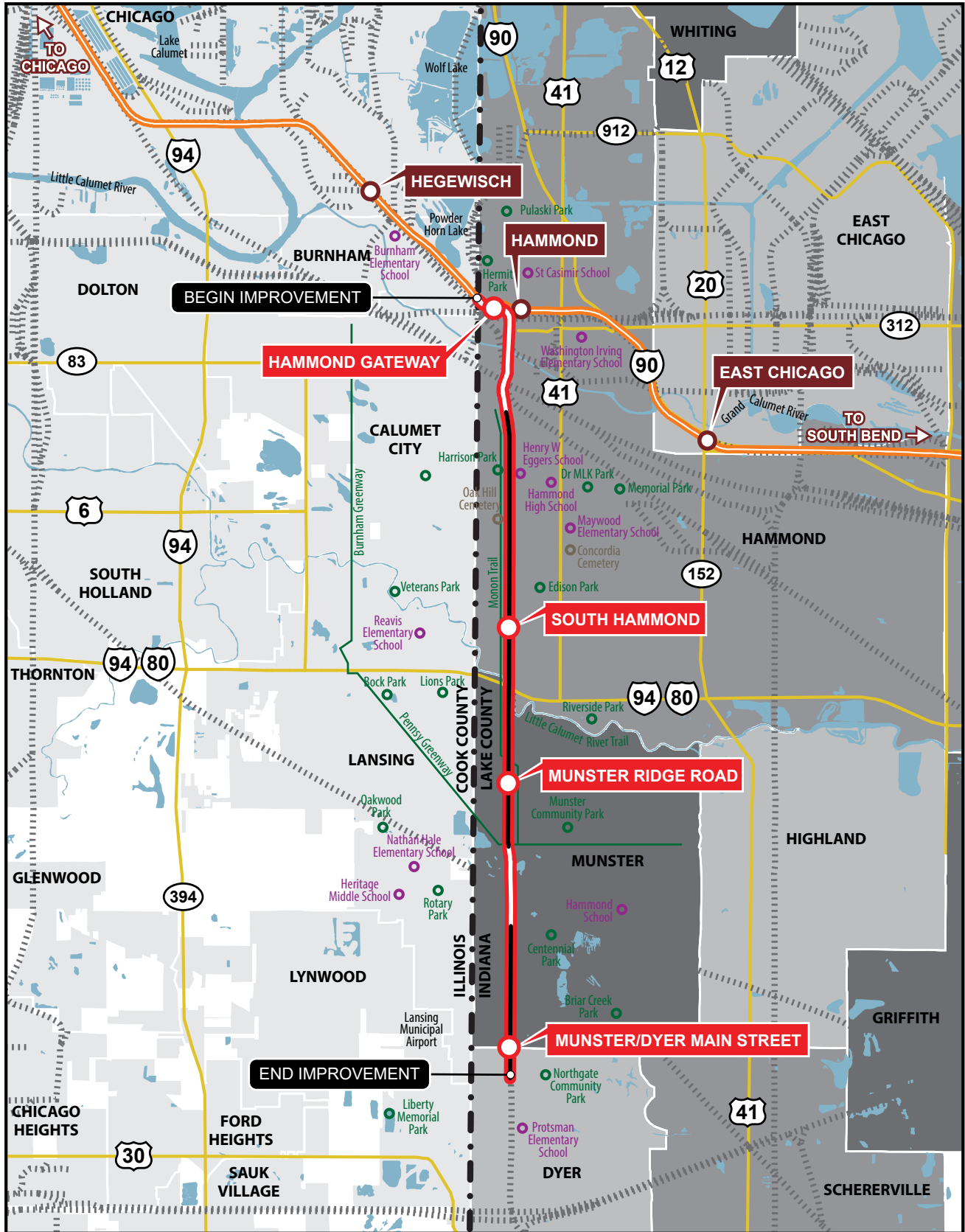
Sustainability Focus:

Designed with a focus on sustainability and wetland mitigation.

HOW TO REACH US:

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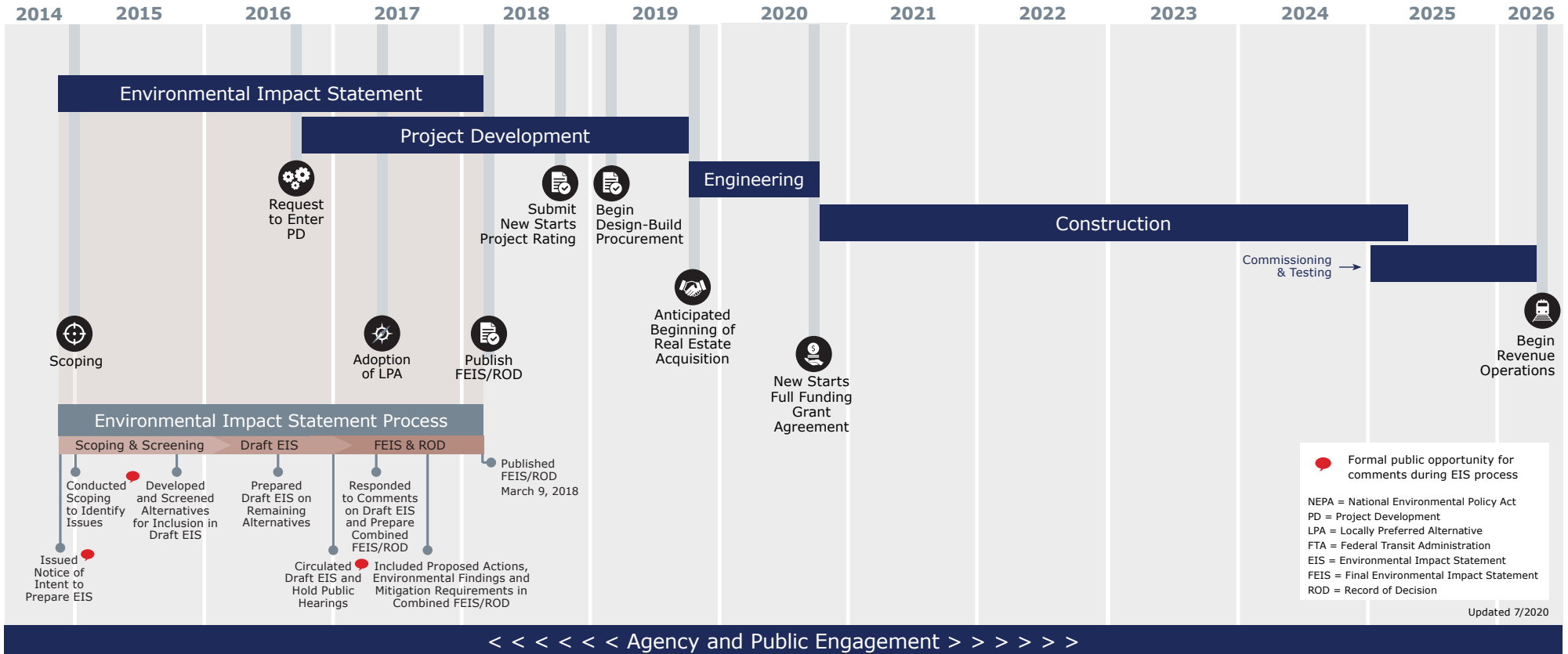
WEST LAKE CORRIDOR PROJECT MAP - HAMMOND, IN TO DYER, IN



- Existing Station
- P Proposed Station
- South Shore Line
- Locally Preferred Alternative (At-Grade)
- Locally Preferred Alternative (Elevated - Open Underpass Structure)
- State Line
- Existing Railroad Track
- Stream and Water Body
- Major Roadway



PROJECT SCHEDULE



“With the expansion of the NICTD South Shore Commuter Rail Line – West Lake Corridor Project and Double Track NWI expansion – the Region will see increased economic development by attracting and keeping residents in Northwest Indiana. The South Shore Convention and Visitors Authority’s Board of Directors supports the expansion as a source of increased business for our hospitality assets and to create opportunities to bring additional high-paying jobs to our corner of the state.”

South Shore Convention and Visitors Authority Board of Directors and Staff • www.southshorecva.com