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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NICTD West Lake Corridor Project Update

CHESTERTON, Ind. – The Northern Indiana Commuter Transportation District, operator of the South Shore Line, is providing an interim update on the completion of its new Monon Corridor service (also known as the West Lake Project). Previously we reported that the Design-Build contractor's schedule anticipated a completion date of October 31, 2025, though we had hoped to work with the contractor to improve upon that date. Unfortunately, due to some unexpected rework we are requiring the contractor to perform, the opening date for the new Monon Corridor service has been delayed. The rework required under our contract with the Design-Builder involves the installation of proper measures to isolate low voltage current from straying from the rail corridor. These measures are necessary to protect against corrosion of adjacent utilities. The new estimated timeline for completion is the end of 2025, pending completion of construction, testing and commissioning. Construction is currently over 95% complete.

The South Shore Line's new Monon Corridor extends 8 miles off its existing Lakeshore Corridor. The route spans from Hammond at the north to the Munster/Dyer border at the south. The new corridor includes four stations:

- Hammond Gateway Station – in service (near Gostlin Street and Sheffield Avenue)
- South Hammond Station (near 173rd Street and Lyman Avenue)
- Munster Ridge Station (near Ridge Road and Manor Avenue)
- Munster/Dyer Station (near Main Street and Allison Road at the Munster/Dyer border)

Communities should be aware that during the testing and commissioning phase, test trains will run without passengers for approximately one month prior to Revenue Service.

A public safety campaign will roll out ahead of testing to remind the general public that trains are in the area, and to be mindful and safe at all grade crossings. The South Shore Line is also currently collaborating with the national Operation Lifesaver railroad organization to visit schools and provide safety education to children throughout the communities adjacent to the corridor.

The city of Hammond and town of Munster jointly applied for a Quiet Zone with the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), which is currently under their review. NICTD anticipates that the Quiet Zone will be approved by the FRA in advance of Revenue Service.

Prior to beginning the new Monon Corridor service, the railroad will provide fact sheets, instructional videos, and advertise to commuters how to use the new service. Five Monon Corridor trains will go to/from Chicago in the morning and evening rush hour periods, while additional Shuttle Trains will operate between Hammond Gateway and the Munster/Dyer Station. Shuttle train riders will transfer trains at Hammond Gateway Station to connect to or from a South Shore Line train.

The Monon Corridor timetable is currently being finalized and will be published over the coming months. The South Shore Line will continue to keep the communities apprised of the final opening date. For more information about the South Shore Line, please visit www.mysouthshoreline.com.

The South Shore Line is a commuter rail line operated by the Northern Indiana Commuter Transportation District (NICTD) between Millennium Station in downtown Chicago and the South Bend International Airport in South Bend, Indiana.

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