

**South Shore Line Northwest Indiana Connectivity Plan**  
**Gary to Michigan City, Indiana**  
**Core Capacity Project Development**  
**Information Prepared April 2016**

The Northern Indiana Commuter Transportation District (NICTD) proposes to double-track its South Shore commuter rail line in northern Indiana to allow for expanded peak-hour service that will relieve current crowding. The project includes double-tracking along a 24 mile-segment of the line between Gary and Michigan City, and platform upgrades at five stations. Two miles of the project corridor are in Michigan City, where the project includes construction of an exclusive two-mile right-of-way to replace the current street-running segment. These upgrades will allow NICTD to increase peak-hour capacity without procuring additional rolling stock. The project's current estimated capital cost is \$213.8 million. The amount of Core Capacity funding to be requested has not yet been identified.

NICTD adopted a preliminary locally preferred alternative (LPA) in 2013, and expects it to be adopted into the fiscally constrained long range transportation plan in mid-2016. NICTD anticipates completing the environmental review process with a Categorical Exclusion for the double-tracking and platform upgrades in June 2017 and a Finding of No Significant Impact for the Michigan City segment in September 2017. NICTD anticipates gaining entry into Core Capacity Engineering at the end of 2017, receiving a Full Funding Grant Agreement at the end of 2018, and beginning revenue services at the end of 2020.