



July 20, 2017

Mr. Tim Nelson
President
Ogden Dunes Town Council
115 Hillcrest Road
Ogden Dunes, IN 46328

Dear Mr. Nelson:

John Parsons and I want to thank you and the Town Council for providing time on your agenda on July 10, 2017 for us to share information about our Double Track Northwest Indiana (DT-NWI) Project. We appreciate the feedback we received from the community and Council members.

Below is a list of concerns and questions raised at the town meeting and our responses. I do hope these provide additional clarity.

Item 1) Question: Can NICTD expand parking to the east of the existing lot rather than west of Hillcrest?

Response: Project engineers and traffic specialists selected the new lot west of Hillcrest because it is in the existing NICTD owned right-of-way. We do not own the property east of the existing lot and because a viable option exists on our right-of-way, this is the planned location.

Item 2) Question: Can NICTD add a second ingress/egress on the west side of Lot 3 instead of having a single entrance/exit? There is concern over safety, congestion and long wait times to get out of the lot.

Response: This lot is being designed with 90° parking on one side only with a single entrance/exit off Hillcrest Road due to space constraints in NICTD's right of way. NICTD's engineers conducted a traffic analysis to ensure a safe and functional intersection. For safety reasons, NICTD will not add a second entrance/exit on the west, which would require an additional grade crossing. The traffic and parking analysis conducted is attached for your review.

Item 3) Concern: NICTD should meet with the City of Portage to discuss their development plans and trail connection plan in this area.

Response: NICTD met with the City of Portage to discuss the project on December 12, 2016. An additional meeting is being scheduled in advance of the release of the Environmental Assessment for public comment.

Item 4) Question: Can Lot 2 on the parking diagram be designed to have traffic enter and exit on Stagecoach rather than Highway 12?

Response: The access to Lot 2 is proposed to be on Stagecoach. Traffic would then traverse Stagecoach to the existing intersection with Highway 12.

Item 5) Question: Can NICTD reevaluate the location of the "potential 5' sidewalk" on the parking diagram?

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Response: NICTD will evaluate this during the final engineering phase in 2018 in conjunction with INDOT.

Item 6) Concern: Should NICTD acquire the real estate office business fronting Highway 12, this will remove development options for the town.

Response: This property is in the City of Portage (not Ogden Dunes); it should therefore not impact commercial development in Ogden Dunes.

Item 7) Concern: Law enforcement is concerned about crashes at these intersections since they are already complex.

Response: Safety is our highest priority. Additional traffic analyses and planning will be conducted for these intersections in conjunction with INDOT during the final engineering phase.

Item 8) Concern: Some neighbors living close to the platform complain that the public address system on the platform is too loud.

Response: NICTD lowered the sound on 7/12/17. We must balance the concern with the need for our riders, especially those with visual disabilities, to be able to hear the messages clearly. Please let us know what feedback you receive from residents.

As the Double Track Northwest Indiana project progresses, we look forward to continued coordination with Ogden Dunes. Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,



Nicole Barker
Director of Capital Investment and Implementation

cc: Jean Manna, Town Clerk/Treasurer

NLB/nlb

Enclosures