The South Shore Line: Building the Next Era of Regional Rail

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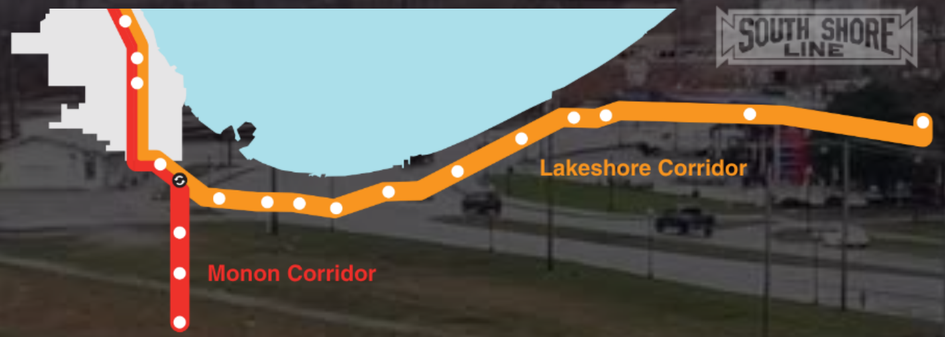
NICTD / South Shore Line

A New Era of South Shore Line Service



- The Monon Corridor represents the largest expansion of South Shore Line service in generations.
- Double tracking strengthens reliability, flexibility, and long-term service capacity.
- These investments support ridership growth, workforce mobility, and regional economic development.
- Together, they position the South Shore Line as a critical transportation backbone for Northwest Indiana.

Reliable Service Builds Rider Confidence

Double tracking changes how the railroad operates every day.

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Reduced congestion and fewer train meets improve schedule consistency.

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Greater operating flexibility helps the railroad recover more quickly from disruptions.

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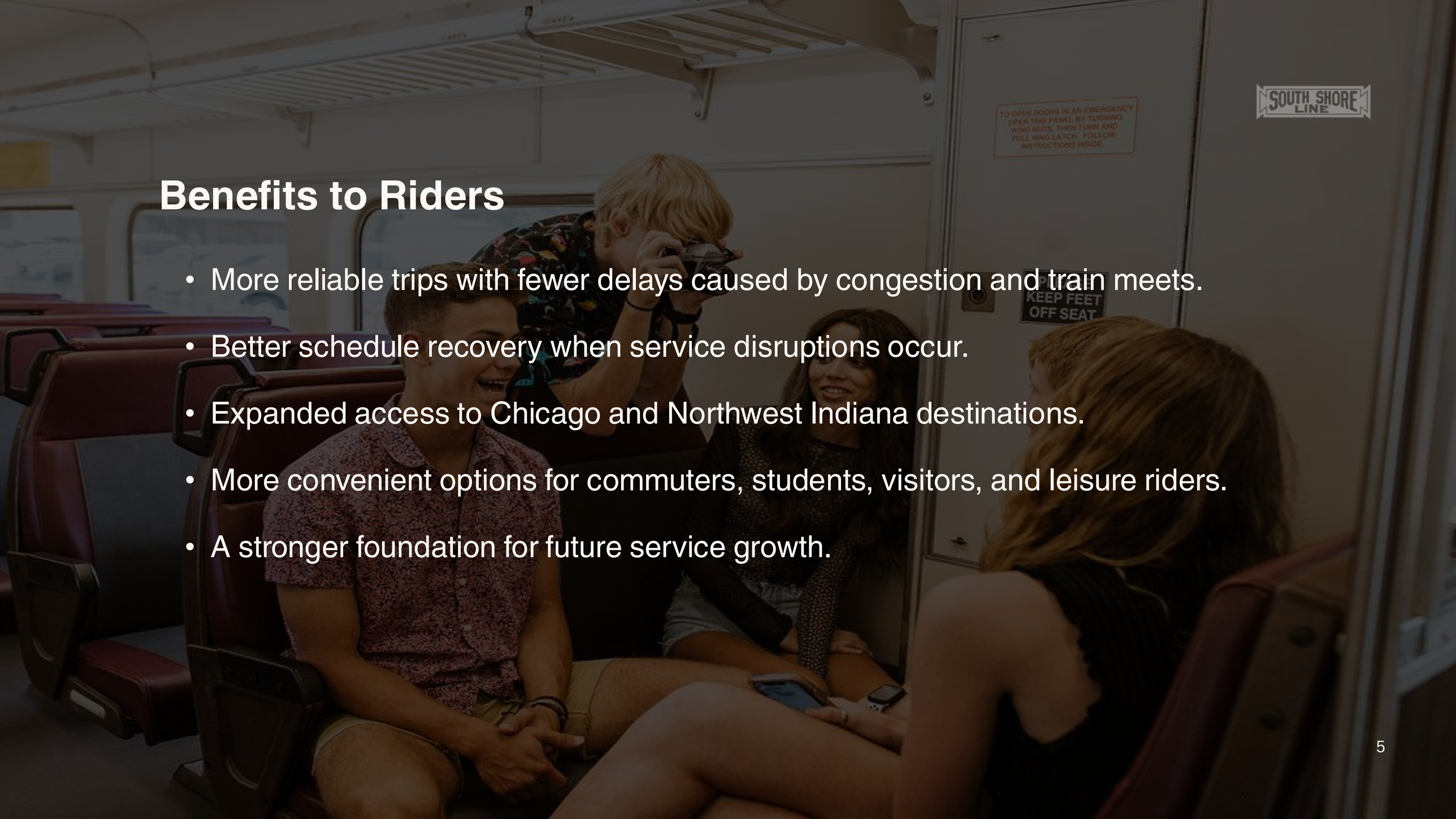
A safer, more predictable rider experience supports long-term ridership growth.

The Monon Corridor Expands Regional Access

- New service connects Hammond, Munster, and Dyer directly to Chicago.
- Expanded park-and-ride capacity supports regional travel demand.
- The corridor improves access to jobs, healthcare, education, and entertainment.
- New stations create long-term opportunities for investment and transit-oriented development.



Benefits to Riders

- More reliable trips with fewer delays caused by congestion and train meets.
- Better schedule recovery when service disruptions occur.
- Expanded access to Chicago and Northwest Indiana destinations.
- More convenient options for commuters, students, visitors, and leisure riders.
- A stronger foundation for future service growth.

Serving a Broader Rider Base

- Daily commuters who need safe, predictable service.
- Hybrid workers who need flexible travel options.
- Students traveling to school, internships, and Chicago opportunities.
- Families and leisure riders traveling to events, beaches, museums and sports.
- Employers who depend on regional workforce mobility.
- Visitors using the train to explore Chicago and Northwest Indiana.

Events and Destinations

- Chicago sports, concerts, festivals, museums, and lakefront destinations.
- Northwest Indiana beaches, trails, parks, community events, and downtown districts.
- Seasonal travel demand around summer events, beach season, festivals, and baseball.
- A convenient alternative to traffic, parking, and downtown congestion.
- A stronger way to position the train as part of the regional event experience.

Economic Development

- New and improved stations can help anchor nearby development, housing, retail, and commercial investment.
- Expanded rail access makes communities more attractive to employers, residents, and private investment.
- The Monon Corridor creates new opportunities for Hammond, Munster, and Dyer to plan around direct rail access.
- Transit-oriented development can strengthen downtown districts and support long-term tax-base growth.
- Reliable service gives communities another tool for recruiting businesses, talent, and visitors.

Regional Connectivity + Coordination

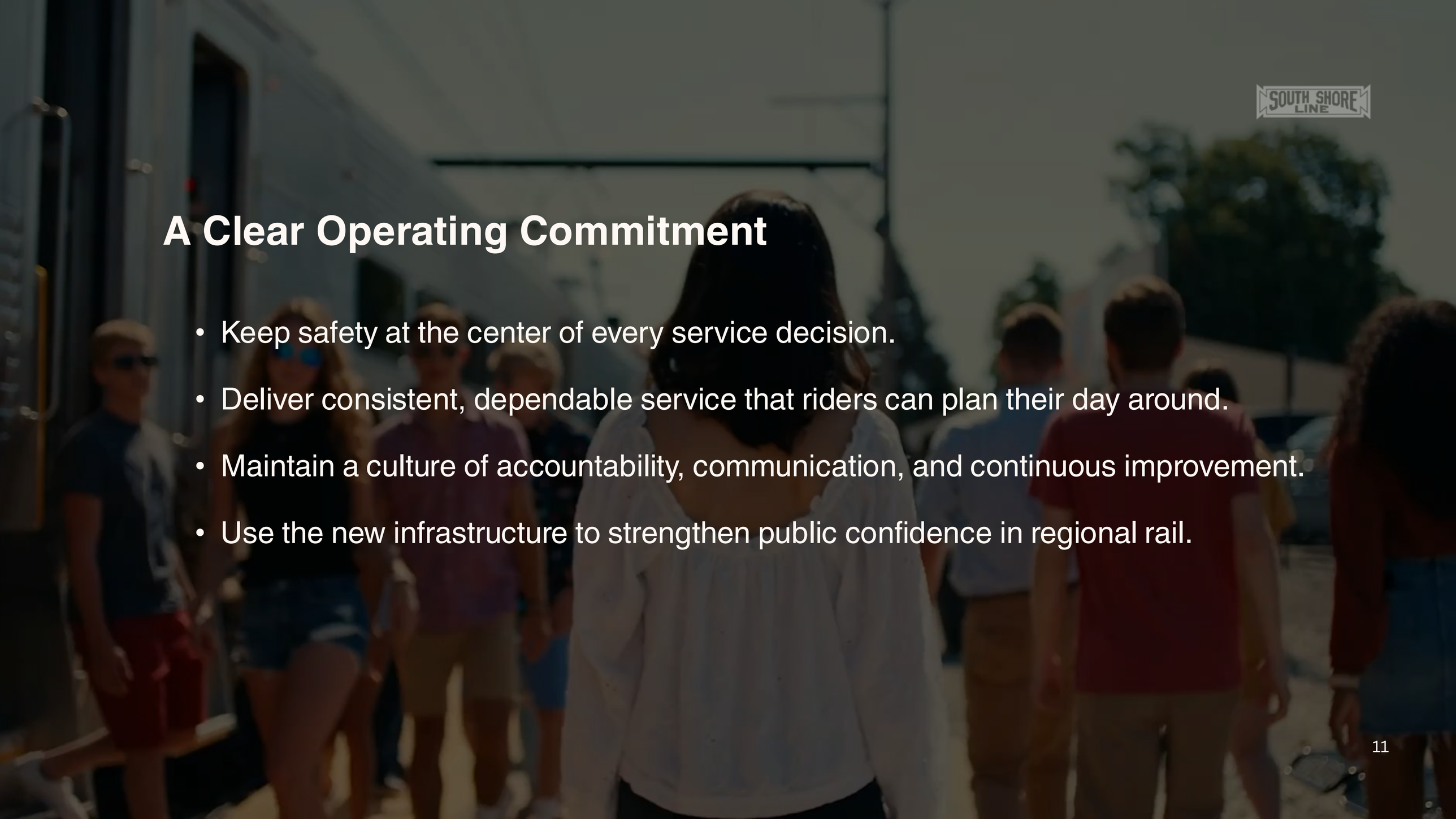
- South Shore Line and Metra serve a shared regional travel market with riders moving across community and state lines.
- Coordinated rail service helps make the broader network easier to use and more valuable to riders.
- Better regional connectivity supports daily commuting, occasional trips, reverse commuting, and event travel.
- Cross-agency coordination is essential as travel patterns, rider expectations, and regional growth continue to evolve.
- The goal is a stronger, more connected transportation network for Northwest Indiana and greater Chicago.

Turning Investment into Growth

Promote the Monon Corridor as a convenient option for communities now directly connected to the system.

Promote destinations and partner with municipalities, employers, tourism groups, and event organizers to reach new riders.

Convert occasional riders into repeat users by making trip planning, parking, and connections easier to understand.



A Clear Operating Commitment

- Keep safety at the center of every service decision.
- Deliver consistent, dependable service that riders can plan their day around.
- Maintain a culture of accountability, communication, and continuous improvement.
- Use the new infrastructure to strengthen public confidence in regional rail.