



The End Is Approaching — South Shore Line on the Streets of Michigan City

A Photo Feature Edited by Norman Carlson

▲ On April 30, 2021, car 307 leads the way down 11th Street at the Washington Street crossing with a morning eastbound move back to Carroll Avenue. The flowers on this tree were hard to pass up as the bi-levels glide down the street in the morning light. One thing that will remain after the double track project will be the house seen on the corner, although the tracks will be mere feet from their front porch. ▲ A lone passenger disembarks from eastbound train 107 as it finishes up its station stop at 11th street as viewed from the driver's side mirror of my Ford Focus. ▼ Another view from my Ford Focus gives a driver's view of an approaching train. Can you imagine what some people think when it is a freight train coming at them?—Three photos and captions by Joseph Trepasso





◀ As seen from the porch of 517 E. 11th Street on April 23, 2021, eastbound train 9 is coming out of the famed S curve at the First Christian Church as it starts up the grade on 11th Street. With a last name like “Trepasso” it’s no wonder I spent the day shooting from as many of the condemned porches as I could to get the “as it was” feel for the streets of Michigan City. Soon, photos like this will be a thing of the past.



▲ It took me three trips to 10th and 11th Streets to finally get the image I wanted. Finally it came to fruition perfectly on April 30, 2021. Westbound train 118 approached at the perfect time on 10th Street as these guys were in the street shooting hoops. The past two trips I had noted that they had been playing pick-up games in the street on and off all day, and this shot was high on my list to pull off. The previous attempt at this shot was thrown out when a scuffle broke out over a botched rebound and tempers flared hot enough that half the street came outside to see what was going on some 45 seconds before the train came. The goal of my trips down to Michigan City were about scenes that would be gone in the near future. This is certainly one of them as the house these guys lived in was on the south side of 10th Street. Those buildings will be demolished for the double track project as is evident by the pile of former belongings sitting next to the curb. It is safe to say street games will not be played here much longer.



▶ Later that day, the last of the eastbound rush hour trains, number 119, approaches the station on 11th street as the motorists of Michigan City go about their business as usual. Soon the allure of cars and trains coexisting on 11th will be a thing of the past, as the second track of the double track project will be roughly in line with where I was standing, perched atop my car, for this photo.—Three photos and captions by Joseph Trepasso



▲ This is the curve between 10th and 11th Streets looking east. 10th Street is to left of the train. Ahead is the curve into 11th Street. Chicago Street is the angular street in the foreground. The front car has entered Kentucky Street. The fate of the triangular building is unknown as this curve is to be realigned. The double track will be just south of 10th Street and the north side of 11th Street, thus reducing the curvature at this location. 11th Street will become one-way eastbound for vehicle traffic.—Paul Swanson photo

◀ Among the conductors' duties during stops at Franklin Street was traffic control. Passengers are boarding westbound train 20 on April 30, 2021.—Lou Gerard photo

▶ The sound of shutters clicking was constant during the last days of April 2021. The number of people taking photos was astounding to members of NICTD's staff. From the left is Steven McKay, Mike Raia, Lou Gerard and John Dowdall.—Bruce Stahl photo





◀ Train 111 has made its last stop in the street as it heads for Carroll Avenue and the end of its trip on April 30, 2021. The challenges of vehicles and trains is clearly demonstrated.—*Lou Gerard photo*

▶ We are looking basically east on 11th Street at Church Curve. Cedar Street is in the foreground. The church suffered a devastating fire years ago and has been unoccupied since then. The congregation is most eager to receive the proceeds of the sale so they can move forward with their plans. This curve is to be realigned as well.



▶ We are looking north as an eastbound train is about to stop. Franklin Street is at the left. The historic façade will be preserved. The rest of the building as well as the single-story structure to the left will be demolished. This will be the site of the new station.—*Two photos Paul Swanson*





▲ A westbound train is slowing to a stop as it crosses Pine Street. We are looking south over 11th Street. The parking lot was the site of South Shore's bus garage and terminal. Buses served the lakeside communities between Michigan City and Saint Joseph-Benton Harbor, Michigan.—Paul Swanson photo

◀ On April 30, 2021, train 22, led by car 22, was the last westbound train to make a station stop in 11th Street. The schedule calls for an 8:03 p.m. departure with an arrival at Millennium (Randolph Street) Station at 9:36 p.m. The consist of this train provides the equipment for eastbound trains 123 and 101 which depart Millennium at 11:00 p.m. and 12:45 a.m., respectively.—Bruce G. Moffat photo

▶ Note that both the man and woman in the foreground are photographing train 22 as it arrives at the Franklin Street stop. Some of the riding public seemed to be just as interested in history being made as the fans.—Lou Gerard photo





▲ For the last time passengers will board a train while standing in 11th Street.—Bruce G. Moffat photo

▼ Conductor Camille Florez keeps a watchful eye as a young passenger boards.—Lou Gerard photo



▼ Maintaining a personal tradition, John Dowdall is the last passenger to board a train from 11th Street.—Bruce Stahl photo





▲ Train 22 departs westbound after making its final stop in 11th Street. ▼ Train 19 arrives eastbound. This is the 7:10 p.m. departure from Chicago that is scheduled to arrive Michigan City at 9:04 p.m.—Two photos Bruce Stahl





◀ Bruce Stahl arrives at 11th Street on Train 101 at 2:18 a.m., the last passenger using the middle of a street as a station as Camille Florez observes history in the making. An era has come to an end in the United States. Bruce, the sole passenger on the train, boarded at Beverly Shores. Interviewed by Dan Petreikis for NWL. Life, Bruce said, “This means a lot to me. As a railway fan. It’s a pretty cool thing. I’ve been out here all evening, taking photos. This is quite the event. I teach history and being here right now, I feel like I’m part of history in the making.” Bruce is a retired steelworker who teaches history at a Michigan City school.



◀ Engineer David Pranckus poses with his conductor Camille Florez. David said, “These are exciting times! It’s a big public works project that I think will bring a lot of good-paying jobs to the area. It’ll help make the trip from here to Chicago much quicker and easier.”—Two photos nwi.life courtesy of Group Seven and NICTD

▼ The train was held for approximately 10 minutes to document this historic event. Michigan City Transit buses will provide scheduled service to the Carroll Avenue station. When the new station is completed, passengers will access trains from a high-level platform that will not be in the street.—Bruce Stahl photo

