

FD-36137

Rail Banking

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Public Comment

I strongly support the towns of Fishers and Noblesville's request to rail bank the tracks between Fishers and Noblesville and convert this section to a pedestrian trail. Thanks for allowing us to provide comment. My wife and I are avid road and trail riders, riding about 4500 miles each year. We have ridden most of the rail trails in Indiana and many around the country. We have lived in Oldtown Noblesville for 37 years.

We strongly support the trail. On a personal level, it will provide a safe place for us to bike and run. As we age, we continue to transition from roads to trails. This trail would provide a safe place close to home to maintain our fitness. At the present time, there is only the one trail from downtown Noblesville and no safe route south from town.

On a community level it will reduce pollution, healthcare costs, boost local economics and connect us with other communities. The trail will add to the appeal of the area when young people are looking to relocate. As noted above, we have used many rail trails around the state and country, and the story is always the same. There is opposition to the trail at the beginning, but once the trail is built it is a jewel of the community and everyone wants to be part of it. Property values increase and local businesses benefit. Residents exercise that did not exercise before. We recently used the Penny Trail in Greenfield. That morning there were walkers, bikers, rollerblades, mothers with strollers, and families. All age groups, from seniors to children were on the trail.

We are strong supporters of railbanking. We want this corridor preserved. We fully expect that someday this corridor will be needed for mass transit. When that time comes, it should be used for that purpose; in the meantime, the best use is a pedestrian trail. The traffic in Noblesville is a problem; the train will contribute to this congestion as the present track runs in the center of the street and causes traffic to come to a standstill in the entire city center. Noblesville has already built underpasses for the trail beneath US 32 and Logan streets thus preventing any traffic issues for cars or pedestrians.

Please approve Docket # 36137 for railbanking. Thank-you.

