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December 27, 2017
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Save theTrain
Karen
Lynn
Williams

501 Lakeview Drive

Noblesville IN
46060-
klw1719@yahoo.com

To: Ms. Cynthia Brown

Here are three attachments regarding the public's input in saving the train for Indiana Transportation Museum. (1). Two additional Petition pages that got separated for the Surface Transportation Board. (2). Letter to local Current newspaper that public input was completely ignored. (3). An article in The Times newspaper with support from the Noblesville Preservation Alliance giving detail that the citizens are being ignored and government bias against the train. Thank you for review and time.

I certify that I have this day served copies of the document upon the Applicant in this proceeding, by [U.S. Mail or E-mail].

Signature Karen L. Williams

Date_09/05/2017_____

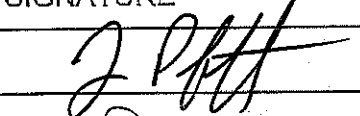
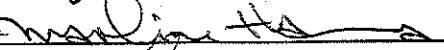
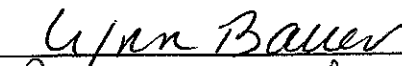
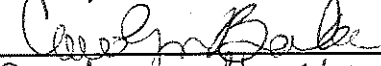
PETITION TO SAVE THE NICKEL PLATE

www.savethenickelplate.org

TO: The elected officials of the City of Noblesville Indiana, City of Fishers Indiana, and Hamilton County Indiana:

GOAL: The withdrawal of any and all proposals put forth by the governments of City of Noblesville, City of Fishers, and Hamilton County, Indiana to destroy and replace the existing Nickel Plate Rail line with a paved trail.

We the undersigned support the continued operation of the Nickel Plate Rail Corridor currently under the jurisdiction of the Hoosier Heritage Port Authority (HHPA). We call on the HHPA to take immediate steps to find an operator for the entire line and to work with said operator to begin rail operations without delay. We furthermore call on all elected officials of the above mentioned governments to withdraw the current trail-only proposal and to work with community members on a compromise rails-with-trails proposal.

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Signature Collector: You may return this completed form using the following methods:

Email: info@savethenickelplate.org

Address: P.O. Box 48 Fishers, IN 46038

Phone: (317) 983-4449

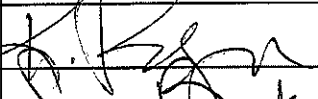
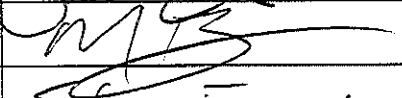
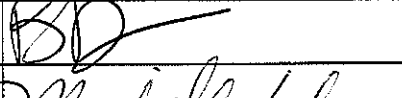
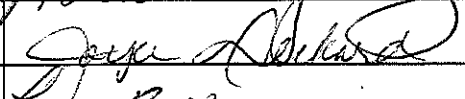
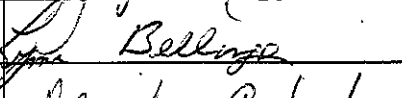
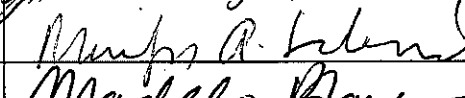
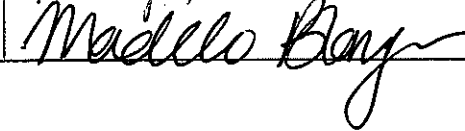
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8-29-17
Current Newspaper
www.currentnoblesville.com

we Americans can still enjoy some nice regional dialects. Brooklyn and Boston each have their own. New Orleans, the Midwest and the valleys of Los Angeles all have unique expressions and pitch. But among the favorites must be the eccentric and entertaining idioms of the great state of Texas. With a sure-fire twang and dead-eyed pithiness, our friends to the southwest get, grinning, to the heart of the matter.

If one is said to have a big hat, no cattle, it notes that the object of assessment is likely pretending to be of greater import than its actual holdings might support. Another personal favorite is that hapless soul who is always fixing to get ready. We all know folks who make it their business to be in a constant state of planning. One might imagine that planning is good. Yes. Yet some of us spend so much of our lives preparing that we fail to reserve any time for the doing!

When is the preparation to end and the executing to begin? If we move too fast, we are rash and lack forethought. Still, if we move too slowly, we fall into a near endless loop of self-reinforcing insecurity.

As a young man, I asked a wise, elderly neighbor when was the best time to trim an overgrown shrub. The man responded by asking me if I had a sharp pair of clippers. He made a good point. Shouldn't we have our tools ready (education, capital and relationships) so that we are set whenever an obstacle and the time to address it presents?

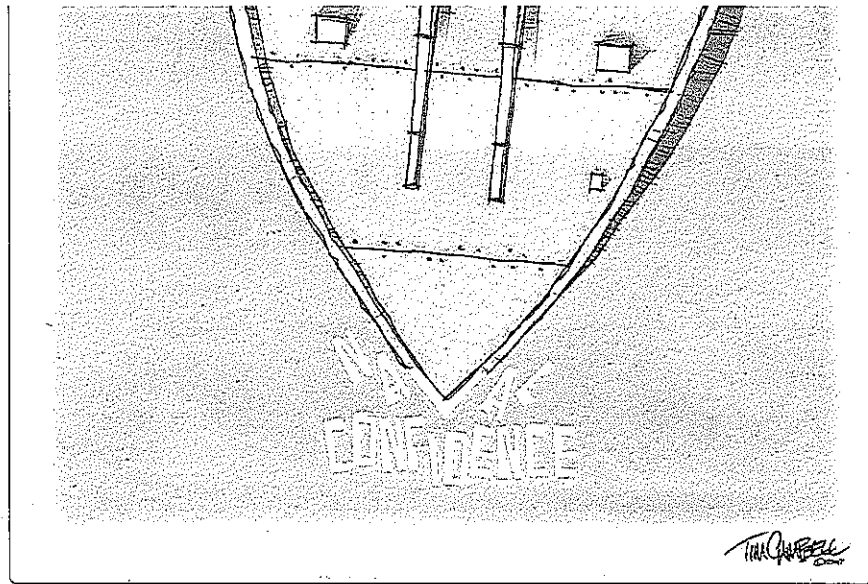


Terry Anker is an associate editor of Current Publishing, LLC. You may email him at terry@youarecurrent.com.



Our nation has all sorts of arcane, nonsensical laws on the books. Each week, we'll share one with you. In Washington, it is illegal to paint polka dots on the American flag.

Source: dumblaws.com



READER'S VIEW

★ Public input completely ignored

Editor,

(In regard to the Aug. 25 cover story,) the potential loss of the railroad only partially explains why the city is so divided over the Nickel Plate Railroad issue. Yes, losing this historic and profitable asset would be devastating and a huge waste of resources. But a more important reason for the division is the way this whole affair has been conducted. The public has been completely ignored throughout as our city leaders pretended to listen to the citizens, then proceeded to pursue their own agenda. The mayor is simply feeling the effects of his exceedingly unpopular position on this issue. The people are talking but he doesn't want to hear them. To him, it just sounds like divisiveness.

And who knows where he gets his facts. It seems he just makes them up to fit what he thinks. The Indiana Transportation Museum has asserted from the start that it could have run the Fair Train this year had the Port Authority let it. The Federal Railroad Administration ruled the

tracks were safe. A few thousand dollars in track maintenance was all that was required, not the \$5-10 million the mayor cites. And that would have been ITM (private) money, not city (public) money. (The estimate of) \$2.5 million to fix the Eighth Street tracks sounds ridiculous. They only run for five or six blocks. Maybe the mayor needs to bid that out to find a better deal.

Finally, it's so tiring to hear the continued objections to building a trail next to the railroad. It is possible if we can only find the political will to do it, but it will be more expensive and more work. It sounds to me like our leaders just don't want to work that hard. If the mayor has any hope of uniting this divided city he better be willing to start listening and working harder to serve the people who elected him.

Mike Corbett, Noblesville

To read the full letter, visit currentnoblesville.com.

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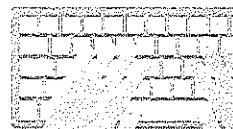
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teacher" from the bathroom v
questionable decision-making
Peace out.



Danielle Wilson
contributing co
may email her a
currentincarme



Want to respond to the co
or send a letter to the
Email Letters@youarecur

☉ TODAY'S VERSE

My righteousness I hold fast, and will not let it go; my heart shall not reproach me so long as I live.

www.thetimes24-7.com - Job 27:6

The Times 8-25-17

NPA objects to Nickel Plate plan

The Times
news@thetimes24-7.com

The owners of the Nickel Plate Railroad are trying to "cherry pick" regulations to allow them to convert a portion of the railroad to a walking/biking trail.

The contention was included in comments submitted by the Noblesville Preservation Alliance to the Surface Transportation Board, the body reviewing a petition by the railroad's owners - Noblesville, Fishers and Hamilton County - to railbank a portion of the line.

The alliance's comments can be summarized in two key areas:

- process undertaken by the Owners to avoid public input and
- critical value the full rail line brings to Noblesville, and greater Hamilton County

The alliance submitted comments relative to the recent petition submitted by the owners for an exemption that would sever the Nickel Plate Rail and move the severed section into a rail banked arrangement with plans to replace the rail with a trail.

"We would emphasize the need for the Board to exercise its full authority and rights by law to require a full abandonment revocation by the owners and not allow any partial or expedited revocation as requested by the Owners," NPA said. "We believe their petition intends to cherry pick regulations and stretch case law, favorable only to the owners' objectives, while continuing to keep the public out of the process."

Nickel Plate's owners have filed a petition with the Federal Surface Transportation Board to keep the rail corridor intact for use as a walking/biking trail, or a railroad.

The petition asks the STB to permit the owners to move forward with plans to rail bank the line.

Rail banking is a voluntary agreement between a railroad company and a trail agency to use an out-of-service rail corridor as a trail until a railroad might need the corridor again for rail service. The process could take as long as a year to receive federal approval.

Noblesville and Fishers announced plans to convert the southern portion of the Nickel Plate to a trail in March.

The plan calls for a 9 mile trail from Pleasant Street in Noblesville to 96th Street in Fishers.

Nickel Plate Heritage Railroad, made up of a partnership between Arcadia Arts & Heritage Depot, a charitable non-profit which will serve as the non-profit operator of the railroad excursions under the name Nickel Plate Heritage Railroad Inc., and Atlanta Pacific Railroad LLC, a company owned by Thomas Hoback, was awarded operating rights to northern portion of the railroad in July. The organization proposes to operate the railroad between Arcadia and Tipton.

NPA contents a full proceeding will, at a minimum, create a venue for the community to provide input in a neutral setting, allow all avenues to maintain the full line to be properly explored and have

☉ See OPPOSE Page A6

☉ OPPOSE

From Page A1

those elements entered into the record as part of the final decision by the Board.

"While (NPA) has experienced positive engagement working with the city and county on other initiatives we are saddened

that the approach with the Nickel Plate Rail does not represent this same spirit of positive engagement," according to NPA's statement. "It is clear that the decision making process for the Nickel

Plate has been heavily, and at times inappropriately, biased towards a trail only approach. In essence, the city is not listening to the many thousands of citizens, organizations and businesses that represent

the great fabric of our city."

The Times contacted representatives from Noblesville, Fishers and Hamilton County, but received no response by its deadline.