



## Indiana Passenger Rail Alliance

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October 5, 2017

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[www.indianahighspeedrail.org](http://www.indianahighspeedrail.org)

#### E-mail

[info@indianahighspeedrail.org](mailto:info@indianahighspeedrail.org)

Ann D. Begeman  
Acting Chairman  
Surface Transportation Board  
Office of Proceedings  
395 E Street, S.W., Room 1034  
Washington, DC 20024

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October 5, 2017  
Part of  
Public Record

RE: Docket # FD-36137-0 "Nickel Plate Railroad"

Ms. Begeman,

The Indiana Passenger Rail Alliance (IPRA) is a grassroots, volunteer citizen organization, incorporated in 1994 as an Indiana not-for-profit corporation. It is dedicated to making available to both the general public and state and local governments, information about the issues and benefits of the development of modern, 21st Century, passenger rail systems in the state of Indiana. This includes, but is not limited to, the connection of Indiana communities with the national passenger rail transportation system.

IPRA has been following events in the Hoosier Heritage Corridor (corridor), and has noted the recent petition to the Surface Transportation Board (STB), by the owners of the Nickel Plate railroad, to convert the corridor to a multi-use trail. The conversion, as proposed, would preclude any future use of the corridor as a commuter rail line connecting the communities of Indianapolis, Fishers, Noblesville, and Tipton. IPRA, therefore, opposes the projected conversion of the old Nickel Plate right of way to a trail only corridor.

IPRA strongly contends that any developments precluding the eventual use of the corridor as a commuter rail line serving the rapidly growing Indianapolis-Fishers-Noblesville corridor will ultimately have a detrimental effect on those Central Indiana communities, and the greater Indianapolis metropolitan area, as a whole.

IPRA, therefore, urges the STB to carefully and thoughtfully consider all comments and evidence thus far submitted prior to ruling on the owners' petition. The corridor has the potential to facilitate a variety of future passenger rail options. The state of Indiana would not be well served by the removal of rails from any portion of the corridor.

Respectfully submitted,



Steven Coxhead  
President  
Indiana Passenger Rail Alliance  
3951 North Meridian Street, Suite 100  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46208  
(219) 741-8053  
[info@indianahighspeedrail.org](mailto:info@indianahighspeedrail.org)

I certify that these comments have been provided to the applicant's attorney of record via email.  
/s/ Steven Coxhead