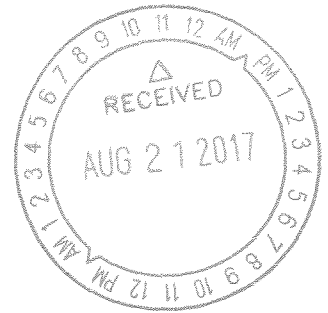


HOOSIER RAILS to TRAILS COUNCIL, INC
PO BOX 1688
INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46202-4115
(317) 237-9348



2017 August 16

Ms. Cynthia T. Brown
Chief, Section of Administration
Office of Proceedings
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, S.W., Room 1034
Washington, DC 20024

244153

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings
August 21, 2017
Part of
Public Record

Re: Docket No. FD 36137-0.
City of Fishers, City of Noblesville, and Hamilton County, Indiana –
Petition for Partial Revocation of Exemption.
Request for Extension of Time.

Dear Ms. Brown:

The Hoosier Rails to Trails Council, Inc. hereby requests the Surface Transportation Board grant an extension of time of three months (from the current deadline of Tuesday, August 22, 2017) to, and including, Wednesday, November 22, 2017 to all parties to respond to the filing of FD 36137-0.

This request is to extend time for the Hoosier Rails to Trails Council, several other groups, and numerous citizens to enter comments and petitions opposing FD 36137-0. We need to continue researching, discovering, and deciphering information about the Nickel Plate Rail Line and Trail. Because neither the City of Fishers, nor the County of Hamilton timely complied with requests of happenings via the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), and because the City of Noblesville did, we, opponents are quite sure of wrongful – if not outright malfeasant – actions by Fishers, but we need time to continue research into happenings.

The Hoosier Rails to Trails Council, Inc. also requests the Surface Transportation Board hold a field hearing in the Indianapolis area, in order to give citizens their due time to express their views about FD 36137-0.

In the last three years during which time the City of Fishers has led the program to shut down the Nickel Plate “Line” so as to kill the Indiana Transportation “Museum”, neither Fishers nor the City of Noblesville have held a neutral, constructive hearing WITH the public. Those Cities have held - one each in mid March of 2017 – a cramming session during which each City gave out distinctly wrong and highly biased misinformation about their ideas related to the Nickel Plate track and trail. Some of the wrong information:

- That these rails are less costly to build than trails. The \$ 5,000,000 estimates for rails would be for upgrading track to faster than 25 miles per hour. There would be virtually no cost to Cities, if the Museum paid to keep rails maintained at less than 25 mph. The cost of trails was grossly underestimated, so as to appear to be more favorable than to build – or maintain? – track.
- That a rail-with-trail project was out of the question because the Cities said – without either a feasibility study, or a master plan - the right-of-way was too narrow for the required 120 foot width for a RWT. Research shows that twenty-five feet is a common set-back dimension, with some RWTs being much closer to ten feet.
- That rails-with-trails are unsafe, citing no facts or figures. Actually, national reports show only three notable incidents on 60 U.S. RWT's, over a span of twenty years.

These examples are but a peek at a plethora of misinformation which the Cities are issuing – and practicing.

With the filing of FD 36137-0, the Cities are moving ever more rapidly into their own sinister world of isolation away from their public and reality.

Good Citizenship calls for public knowledge and input on multi-million dollar projects. The Cities are hiding costs by not having a master plan. They are also, trying to use the STB to create not only their own isolation away from public input, by falsely claiming that “their abandonment” is better than the full scope of rail authority and processing by the STB.

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In summary, the Hoosier Rails to Trails Council asks the STB for an extension of time, and for a field meeting in the Indianapolis area because the Cities are using the STB and other processes in extreme ways to wrongfully force public opinion about the Nickel Plate Line, trains on the Nickel Plate Line, and FD 36137-0.

Appreciatively,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Richard Vonnegut". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and contact information.

Richard Vonnegut
Vice Chair
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Note:

- 2 maps: state, local line
- Original and ten duplicates
- Service to Mr Robert A. Wimbish by first class United States Postal Service.
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Attorney for the City of Fishers, City of Noblesville, and Hamilton County, Indiana
- Filing fee = none



