

Surface Transportation Board

PO Box 48

Fishers, Indiana 46038

Docket#: FD-36137-0

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Dear Public Servants,

The railroad, as a mode of day-to-day transportation, is a big issue, and there are many pros and cons. I have lived in both Europe and the New York Metro area, and I appreciate public transportation.

HOWEVER ...

... my focus here, is on the Fair Train, Pizza Train, Polar Express and Pumpkin Trains as **exciting and unique recreational opportunities** for all. These are especially well suited to our special citizens (older, disabled, and children, among others) that may have few other exciting and "life-time memorable" options. Also the Train is a piece of unique history that all can actually use, and be thrilled by, such as when it passes by waving watchers. The Train is probably a worthy National Historic Site.

Right now, **we miss our Fair Train and Pizza Train and Polar Express!** When the idea was suggested that these were halted so the tracks could be fixed, we showed considerable patience. But giving them up permanently is totally unacceptable.

The Indiana Transportation Museum does a splendid job of tailoring various excursions to jive with seasonal themes. And there was some talk of scheduling trains to shuttle people for downtown sporting events and add a little more "sizzle" at the same time.

While I am not now an official of the **Hollis Adams Foundation (a non-profit organization to serve the needs of adults with disabilities** in Marion and Hamilton Counties), I am a past president and decade long supporter of this

worthy organization which has **used the Train's activities consistently over those decades** to punctuate the entire year -- to the sheer delight of our 'special folks'. We have tried to schedule other activities in place of the Train, but nothing clicks.

It is nearly **unthinkable that we would destroy this one-and-only** metropolitan asset and heritage structure, a symbol of the age of public transportation. The Train is certainly more interesting than any aging building we might wish to preserve. In addition, the Train **has great appeal at specific times in our lives.**

- The Train is a mobile and thrilling classroom when we have **young children** that we wish to stimulate and to whom we wish to give unforgettable history lessons.
- Also it is a thrill, almost unavailable elsewhere, when we are **aging**, to relive the excitement of our youth.
- A train ride is often the **highlight of the year for our citizens with disabilities.**
- **And it is fun for all ages.**

This asset is Golden! The irony is that just at the time we are considering advancing rapid transit 'over there', some want us to destroy the very concept 'over here'.

Hiking trails are available elsewhere. The RR isn't. Some say that the main initiators of the proposed change are contractors and developers and do not reflect the needs and wants of all our citizens. Let's not destroy the "unique" to replace it with the "ordinary".

Respectfully,



Richard C Juday
9720 Gulfstream Drive
Fishers, Indiana, 46037

Twenty year resident

I certify that these comments have been provided to the Applicant's Attorney of Record via email. /S/ Logan J. Day on behalf of Richard C. Juday | Save the Nickel Plate, Inc. | info@savethenickelplate.org