



June 12, 2017

Ms. Rhonda Klophenstien, Executive Director  
Hoosier Heritage Port Authority  
1 Hamilton County Square, Suite 157  
Noblesville, IN 46060

Dear Director Klophenstein,

Please accept our proposal in response to the Request for Proposals Hoosier Heritage Port Authority Railroad Operator for Marion, Hamilton, and Tipton County, Indiana. ITM is a registered 501(c)3 educational Not-For-Profit Limited Liability Corporation established and governed under the laws and statutes of Indiana since 1960. We appreciate your consideration of our proposal based on recent changes and actions taken by the Indiana Transportation Museum to improve our value to the community and enhance our future.

Our proposal is based on over thirty years of safe operations, with the last twenty years along the Nickel Plate Line. Our long relationship with the counties and communities along the line puts us in the right place to resume operations without the need for additional government funding or assistance.

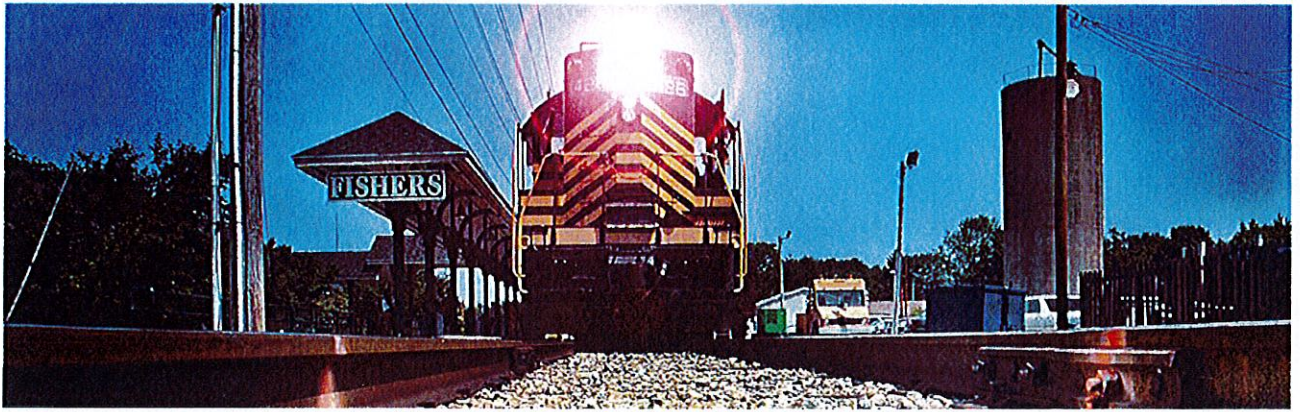
Our plan is to operate on the entire line, providing popular excursions such as the Indiana State FairTrain<sup>sm</sup>, fall harvest trains, and the Polar Bear Express<sup>sm</sup>. These form the core of our operations and provide income to maintain the corridor. However, we plan on adding several new year-round tourist attractions, excursions and entertainment as described in this proposal.

Our leadership and management team has been significantly expanded to include several well-qualified community and business leaders who have a plan for implementing the recommendations contained in this proposal. Our team of business leaders and experienced railroad professionals coupled with a demonstrated operational capability makes us uniquely qualified to operate tourist and recreational trains upon the Nickel Plate Line. Our leadership supports the strategic plans as laid out in this proposal.

We look forward to working with you throughout this selection process and are eager to find an approach that meets the requirements of the communities it serves.

Respectfully submitted,

John McNichols, Chairman  
Proposal Team Leader  
Indiana Transportation Museum  
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The Indiana Transportation Museum (ITM)

# INDIANA TRANSPORTATION MUSEUM

A plan for the future of the Nickel Plate Line

## ABSTRACT

“The Indiana Transportation Museum is best suited to immediately operate recreational and tourist trains on the entire Nickel Plate line from Indianapolis to Tipton and beyond in exchange for maintaining the line as it has done for the last 20 years without government funding or support. ITM plans to re-connect to downtown Indy to offer unparalleled sports and entertainment excursions while re-developing legacy city areas that result in vibrant communities along the entire line.”

**John McNichols**

ITM Chairman

REMAINING 50<sup>+</sup>1- PAGES  
OF ITM'S PROPOSAL  
MARKED "PROPRIETARY AND  
CONFIDENTIAL" BY PROPOSER