

From: Brenda Myers <bmyers@hamiltoncountytourism.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 16, 2016 5:08 PM
To: John Ditslear
Cc: Steve Cooke; Alaina Shonkwiler; Judi Johnson
Subject: Discuss Train

Mayor Ditslear,

I am reaching out because a group of us not connected with the ITM is, on its own without any encouragement, pulling together a potential proposal to rework the tourism railroad operations along the Nickel Plate line should there be interest on behalf of the Hoosier Heritage Port Authority.

This is not news to many — it's out there that we're working on this — but we'd rather not broadcast it. I've already been asked by the media and I've said it is what it is — a folly, a Brenda crazy idea — and we're just noodling on this as of now. And not ready for any public dissemination. We do not own the rights to operate anywhere. We are just testing a concept.

We do have a trifecta of interest — we would develop the non-profit program provider, the town of Atlanta would work with us on a new location for the train, and a for-profit professional railroad operator would serve as the equipment provider. It would be a whole new business model. We might run freight north of Cicero even to help it balance the budget.

We are not sure we can get the numbers to work out, but I wondered if we could chat by phone even to help us understand the degree to which you would even allow/desire train operations in Noblesville.

The only way to make it make money is to move south and north, but I am conscious of the fact that you might not be that keen on a lot of trains.

The excursion schedule would be different than the current business model. Better trains, bigger prices, pretty much Friday-Saturdays.

Also, a lot of activity would originate north to south, landing north of the square.

We would not anticipate using the park currently in our business planning as that works through its issues and concerns.

Let me know if you have a moment to talk — what a good time for a phone call might be.

Thank you so much,

Brenda



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