

**Town of Zionsville Proclamation
Declaring October 4, 2023 as
ZIONSVILLE-WHITESTOWN BIG-4 RAIL TRAIL DAY**

WHEREAS, the railroad that served Zionsville began in 1853 as the Lafayette and Indianapolis Railway and had tracks that ran on what is now First Street with the depot and yards on what is now Lincoln Park; and

WHEREAS, in 1889, three railroad companies merged to form the Cleveland, Cincinnati, Chicago and St. Louis Railway, also known as the Big Four Railway Company; and

WHEREAS, in 1930, the Big Four Railway Company was acquired, its headquarters moved to Indianapolis and use of the station was discontinued in 1961; and

WHEREAS, the trail has an important link to American history, as both the Lincoln Inaugural Train and the Lincoln Funeral Train traveled the route through Zionsville and Whitestown in 1861 and 1865; and

WHEREAS, Zionsville installed a trail along the rail corridor in the 1990s and its transition to a multiuse pathway has contributed significantly to the quality of life in the community; and

WHEREAS, in 2021, Zionsville announced the award of a \$1.8 million Next Level Trails grant to complete the extension of the Big-4 Rail Trail north to Whitestown and south to Zionsville Road; and

WHEREAS, in 2022, Whitestown announced the award of a \$1.1 million Next Level Trails grant to extend the trail by 1.54 miles; and

WHEREAS, and the Big-4 Rail Trail is now complete and contiguous between Whitestown and Zionsville, creating a nearly 9-mile-long pathway; and

WHEREAS, Zionsville's Big-4 Rail Trail is currently being widened to create a uniform 12' wide trail with a soft shoulder and the Zionsville Road trailhead is under construction; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Zionsville Mayor Emily Styron and Whitestown Town Council President Eric Nichols proclaim October 4, 2023 as Zionsville-Whitestown Big-4 Rail Trail Day and celebrate this paved trail as an asset for residents and visitors to enjoy.

**The Town of Zionsville and Whitestown Town Council recognize October 4, 2023 as
ZIONSVILLE-WHITESTOWN BIG-4 RAIL TRAIL DAY**



Emily Styron, Zionsville Mayor



Eric Nichols, Whitestown Town Council President