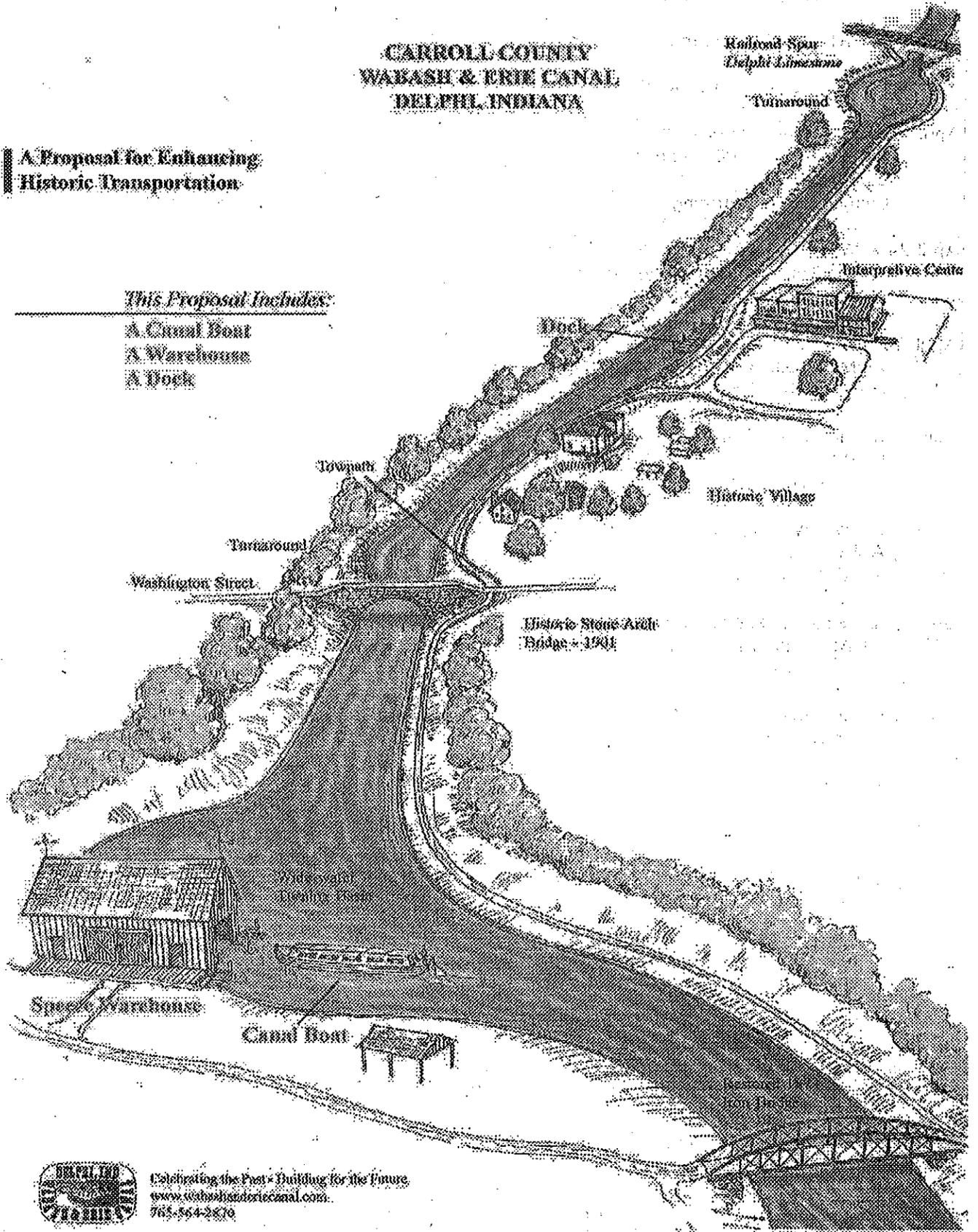


CARROLL COUNTY  
WABASH & ERIE CANAL  
DELPHI, INDIANA

A Proposal for Enhancing  
Historic Transportation

*This Proposal Includes:*

- A Canal Boat
- A Warehouse
- A Dock



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**NEWS FROM  
DELPHI**

**GREAT PLANS FOR FUTURE  
OF CANAL PARK**  
By Dan McCain

January 31st was the deadline for submission of proposals to the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) for Transportation Enhancement projects. Funding for these activities comes to INDOT from federal gasoline tax receipts. Ultimately these projects involve money earmarked for several non-vehicular transportation enhancements including "historic transportation museums." The City of Delphi assisting the Carroll County Wabash & Erie Canal Association has submitted a 25 page document describing an exciting new local venture--a dock, storage warehouse and Canal Boat. An illustration showing the proposed location of the above is seen on the following page.

For years the question has been posed over and over by visitors, "are you going to have a canal boat we could ride someday?" The positive response by Canal Board members has been, "yes when we find the means and when our volunteers are ready for such a big project." The time may have come now that the Canal Interpretive Center is complete. All the elements are coming into focus for this exciting project.

For the past eight years work by the Canal volunteers and contractors have netted almost a mile of watered and reconstructed Wabash & Erie Canal in Delphi. The bountiful source of clear groundwater is released from the Delphi Limestone Company's pipe diversion at the north end next to the flood levee at Founders Point. Millions of gallons

daily flow through the 19th century manmade waterway keeping it full. The reconstructed canal passes under two historic bridges, one stone and one iron, before entering Canal Park. Inside Canal Park the canal passes immediately beside the new Interpretive Center where a replica dock is being planned.

Plans have been developed for the canal park section to be used for towing the two-thirds scale replica canal boat during big weekends, festivals and at other special times. Towing is made possible because there is an adequate "treeless" towpath right beside the canal for direct access by draft animals. These mules or horses would be hitched to a towline for propelling the boat and would afford a true historic adventure for passengers of all ages.

The opportunity for the public to experience this historic transportation mode is not available within 150 miles. In Indiana only the Metamora site, with its Whitewater Canal, offers this type of ride. Several authentic boats are located in Ohio and LaSalle, on the Illinois & Michigan Canal west of Chicago, is presently building a canal boat.

To be a true experience for travelers our boat will be towed by draft animals. On weekdays and for tour groups of 40-50 people the boat will have the ability to be propelled by a hidden inboard motor and have an unseen durable metal hull. This two-thirds scale craft will be just able to pass under the Washington Street stone arch bridge and the 1874 restored Paint Creek iron bridge in Canal Park Annex. Bumper guides at waterlevel beneath this bridge will keep the boat centered safely under the arch much as an automobile enters a carwash bay.

For the times this boat passes to the north of Washington Street it will need to be propelled by a motor as there is no continuous

towpath for that half mile up to Founders Point. Some creative ideas for reserving the use of the boat have included wedding parties, tour bus groups and school classes. Some groups could load at the warehouse in Canal Annex Park and exit a half mile later right at the dock beside the Canal Conference and Interpretive Center. A slow paced Sunday afternoon cruise to the scenic sections to the north could take travelers casually past several historic points along the way including the lime kiln site, the canal boat turning basin and the restored iron bridge.

A special storage facility fashioned as an 1850s canalside warehouse would house the boat overnight. In addition this facility could protect this boat in the winter by raising it out of the water inside this two story building. Creating the illusion that this building featured a top loading cargo facility just as the historic Speece Warehouse did in the 1850s would add to the realism of the original turning basin site.

The Canal Association will begin the task of raising funds to match the federal TEA-21 program if the grant is approved later this year. The last such INDOT grant involving the Canal Association funds and City administrative assistance allowed building the new Interpretive Center that was dedicated last July 4th.

**NARRATED WALKS  
ANNOUNCED**

Delphi Historic Trails is once again conducting a series of delightful walks in places in and around Delphi. Some of the walks deal with the canal, canal related businesses or canal men. They vary in length and ease of walking. Some include transportation on a trolley. All are fun and educational. Cancellations or shifts in time due to weather are placed on the CANAL HOTLINE 765-564-6572. Take a day off and enjoy one of the following narrated walks.