




HISTORIC
FRANKLIN
TENNESSEE

ITEM #14
WRKS 01/10/2012

MEMORANDUM

December 27, 2011

TO: Board of Mayor and Aldermen

FROM: Eric Stuckey, City Administrator 

SUBJECT: Horse Drawn Carriage Proposal

Purpose

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide the Board of Mayor and Aldermen (BOMA) with information to consider a request from Sugar Creek Carriages to operate horse-drawn carriage rides in Downtown Franklin.

Background

Sugar Creek Carriages provides horse-drawn carriage rides in Nashville as well as in downtown Franklin during Pumpkinfest and Dickens of a Christmas. The company has requested to operate carriage rides on a regular basis in Downtown Franklin according to the following schedule:

Friday: 6 p.m. – 10 p.m.

Saturday: 12 Noon – 11 p.m.

Holidays: 12 Noon – 11 p.m.

Currently, there is no provision in our Code that would allow for horse-drawn carriage rides. In 2000, the Board of Mayor & Aldermen passed a resolution allowing for another company to operate a horse-drawn carriage business in Downtown Franklin with certain restrictions. That resolution (attached) expired after a term of one-year and was not renewed.

Staff has performed an initial review of the proposal and would suggest the following conditions, if approved:

- The “stand” or pick-up/drop-off area be moved off the square. Perhaps an area on Third Avenue South adjacent to City Hall would be a better option for pick-up/drop-off.
- The operator is required to clean-up after their horses to keep the streets clean and clear.
- The operator should insure that the horse and carriage is sufficiently visible to motorists and pedestrians i.e. – headlights/taillights, reflectors. .
- The route used by the operator is subject to the approval of the City. The City may at its discretion alter the route in the interests of safety and efficient traffic flow.

Options

The options for Board consideration include:

- Adopt a resolution similar to the one drafted and passed in 2000 (now expired). The resolution could be either for a specific company or for the general operation of a horse drawn carriage service.



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- Amend the existing taxi cab ordinance to include horse drawn carriages as a “vehicle for hire.” Specific considerations could be placed within that ordinance pertaining to the operation of horse drawn carriages.
- Decline to permit the operation of horse drawn carriages within the City of Franklin.

Financial Impact

There is no known, direct financial impact to the City.

Recommendation

Board direction is requested regarding this specific proposal and the operation of horse drawn carriages generally. Staff recommends that at a minimum a short-term trial (3 to 6 months) be approved for the operation of a horse drawn carriage service that is able to meet identified operating requirements (licensure, insurance, etc.).

①

Submitted Route Plan
Sugar Creek Carriages

START UP POINT (pick-up
and drop off) at

turn around at Confederate
Soldier. Carriages will

pull up on shallow ledge
completely out of traffic
so as not to impede
movement of traffic.

This will also be the
drop-off after fare has
run.

This is Sugar Creek's
preferred plan for safety
reasons to have driver
to be able to change
route according to traffic
situations and congestion.

Perimeter consists of
corner of 1st Ave. at E. Main
at Catholic Church.

②

Right on Church going
S.W., go through Right
at 7th Ave. at
Columbia Ave. to Fair
St., right here back
to 5th Ave. to alley
at 4th Ave Church of
Christ back to alley
behind Starbucks. Turn
right at Ivey Cafe,
and follow alley behind
Iron Gate. Continue
alley behind Baskin-Robbins.

Second Ave go right
and then left on main
back to starting point at
Confederate Statue out of
traffic.

③

Carriage Stand will
be at Confederate Soldier
Statue. Two carriages
will park here.

HOURS: Fri - 6 PM - 10:00 PM
Sat. 12:00 noon - 11:00 PM

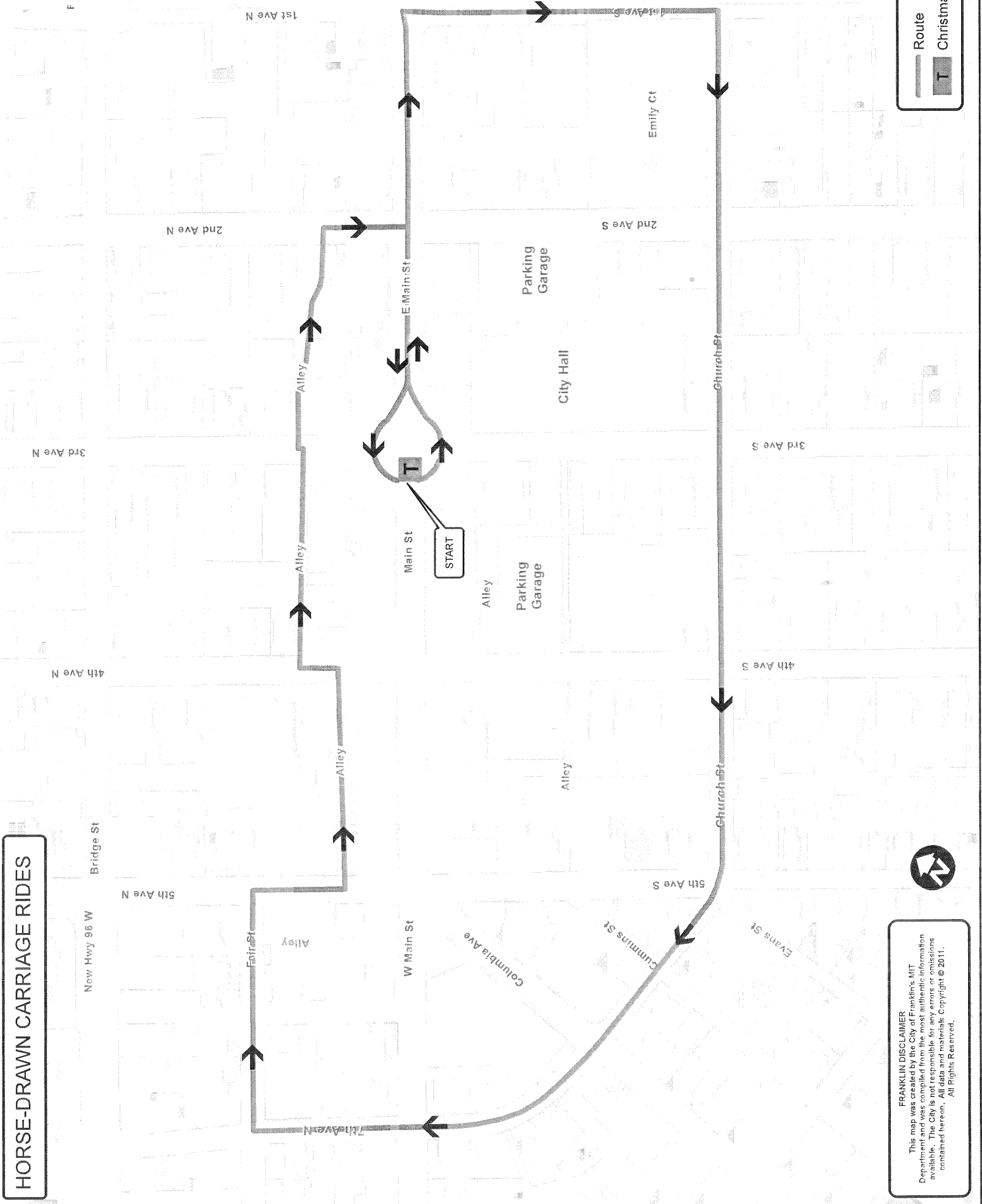
No weekdays between

4-6 PM / closed Monday, Tues

HOLIDAYS - OPEN 12:00 - 11:00
PM.

Owner ~~John L. Smith~~
Johnny L. Smith

HORSE-DRAWN CARRIAGE RIDES



Route
T Christmas Tree

FRANKLIN DISCLAIMER
This map was created by the City of Franklin's MIT Department and was compiled from the most authentic information available. The City is not responsible for any errors or omissions contained hereon. All data and materials Copyright © 2011. All Rights Reserved.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Southern Carriage Company has applied to the City of Franklin to use the streets of the City to provide a horse-drawn carriage service within the Historic District;

WHEREAS, the Board finds that the provision will enhance the attractiveness of the City for tourism and will otherwise be in the public interest;


NOW THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED by the Board of Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Franklin, Tennessee, that the City of Franklin grants permission to Southern Carriage Company, a Tennessee corporation, ("the Company") to use the streets of Franklin for a horse-drawn carriage service, subject to the following limitations and conditions:

1. The carriage travel routes shall be limited to the streets shown on the map attached as Exhibit A.
2. Prior to commencing service, the Company shall provide to the City information and maps if necessary showing the location of the proposed loading areas for the service, all features of which shall be subject to the approval of the Police Chief.
3. Prior to commencing service the Company shall submit to the City proof of liability insurance in the amount of \$150,000 per person and \$300,000 per incident.


4. The Company shall comply with all State laws concerning horse-drawn conveyances, including, but not limited, to marking of the carriages as a "slow-moving" conveyance and other appropriate warning signs.
5. All animals shall be fitted with manure bags, which shall be emptied regularly.
6. This authorization shall be good for a minimum of one (1) year, so long as the Company abides by all conditions hereof, and thereafter may be renewed for such terms as the Board deems appropriate. However, the Board may revoke this authorization at any time if the operations of the Company are deemed to be detrimental to the public health, safety, and welfare.

IT IS SO RESOLVED AND DONE on this the 11th day of April, 2000.

ATTEST:

By: 
JAMES R. JOHNSON
City Administrator/Recorder

CITY OF FRANKLIN, TENNESSEE

By: 
JERRY SHARBER
Mayor

CITY OF FRANKLIN
TENNESSEE

#23

David Parker
Director

Engineering
Department

MEMORANDUM

TO: Board of Mayor and Aldermen
Jay R. Johnson, City Administrator

FROM: David Parker, Director of Engineering 

DATE: April 6, 2000

RE: Southern Carriage Company

We, the Engineering Department, have met with Ms. Lynn Vaughan Dorris concerning the issues we raised at the Transportation Committee meeting concerning her desire to operate a carriage service in downtown Franklin. All of our concerns have been adequately addressed. TDOT, through Mr. Jim Jeffers, has indicated that they do not have any objections to this service if Franklin desires to allow it. Also, we have discussed the location of loading/unloading for the service. This service will require taking up two parking spaces for loading/unloading. The designated area will need to be signed with a "No Parking - Carriage Stop" sign and will require an ordinance. We recommend that the Carriage Stop be established on Fourth Avenue at either the northeast or southwest corner of the intersection of Fourth Ave. and Main Street (see attached proposed route map).

Should you have any questions concerning this matter, please call.

CITY OF FRANKLIN
TENNESSEE

David Parker
Director

Engineering
Department

MEMORANDUM

TO: Public Transportation Committee

FROM: Engineering Department

RE: Southern Carriage Company

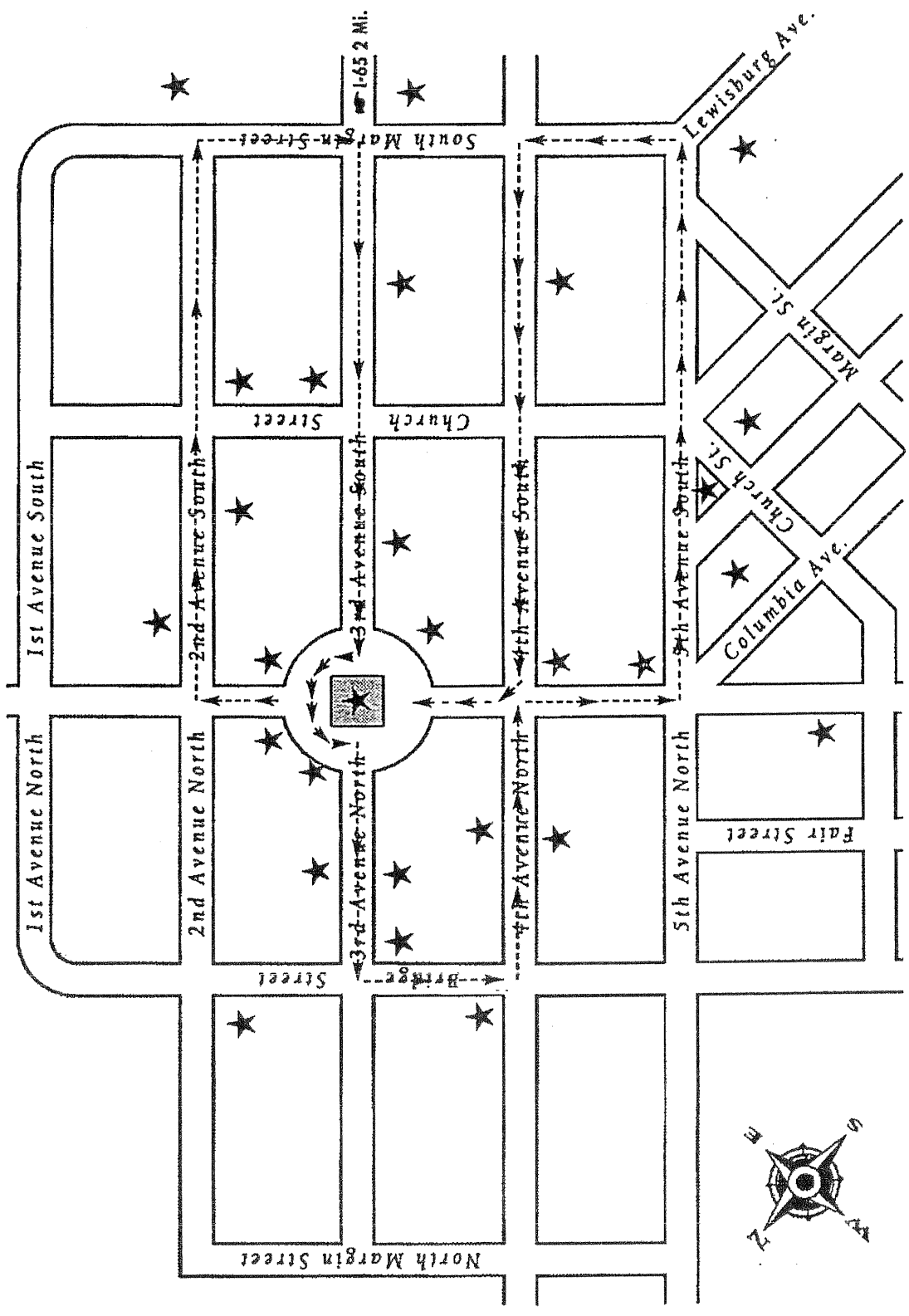
DATE: March 22, 2000

In regards to item C.3 on this month's agenda, the Engineering Department suggests that, if the Public Transportation Committee finds to proceed on this matter, the service should be properly provided for if it is to be successful. To this end, the following transportation issues need to be addressed:

- Specification of carriage travel routes, including times when Main Street and other streets would be closed for special events
- Designation of carriage loading zones (both on- and off-street)
- Details and explanation of proposed Franklin Town Square loading location
- Placement of pedestrians waiting to load the carriages (provide for trash receptacles)
- Interaction of horse-drawn carriages with vehicular and pedestrian traffic, including during emergency response runs
- Availability of services for incidents (veterinary, towing)
- Marking of carriage itself as a slow-moving vehicle

These issues should be coordinated with all of the City's emergency response and waste management providers.

SOUTHERN CARRIAGE COMPANY



Exit - A

received
3-13-00

SOUTHERN CARRIAGE COMPANY

4331 Long Lane, Franklin, Tennessee, 37064
(615) - 573 - 1685

LYNN DORRIS, Proprietor

C-3

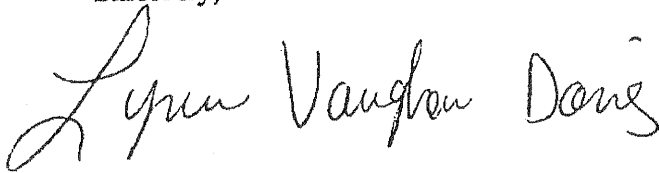
Date: March 10, 2000
To: City of Franklin Transportation Committee
Re: Business License Inquiry

My name is Lynn Dorris and I am interested in starting a horse drawn carriage tour service in downtown Franklin. My goal in doing so would be to provide our citizens as well as guests to the city, historically accurate and entertaining information, in a unique setting. It is my feeling that such a service would be an effective means of drawing further attention to Franklin, and would therefore benefit other local businesses and educate guests regarding our city's fascinating history. I truly feel that Franklin would be a *perfect* setting for such a service. For example, how many guests would be aware that the first Chickasaw Treaty was signed here? Or that one of the bloodiest battles of the American Civil War took place here. Or perhaps that one of Franklin's own was an original "Buffalo Soldier", who also won this nation's highest military honor.

My service would provide anyone a chance to tour downtown Franklin in unique style, and take with them a fun and educational experience of a lifetime.

Thank you very much for your time and attention. Please find enclosed also a FAQ sheet regarding the details of my potential operation.

Sincerely,



Lynn Vaughan Dorris

SOUTHERN CARRIAGE COMPANY

F.A.Q. sheet:

Describe the carriage? Our carriage is in the "Vis-a-vis" style; it is black in color; it seats 6 adults + driver/guide; it meets all legal requirements in regard to lighting, brakes, etc.

Describe a typical tour? The duration of any given tour would be 30 - 40 minutes in length, and would be tailored to the clients wishes as to historical subject matter (i.e., architecture; military; political, general, etc.) All tours will be confined to the area bordered by North Margin Street (north); 1st Avenue (east); South Margin Street (south); and Columbia Avenue (as far as The Carter House Museum) (west).

Have you consulted the Franklin Police department? Yes, Commander Larry Barnes has voiced both approval and support.

Is this business fully insured? Yes, pending approval of Franklin Board of Aldermen.

When would these tours run? Daily; 10:00 a. m. - 6:00 p. m.; March through December (weather permitting)

Where will be the "Pick up/ drop off" point? Pending approval, Franklin Town Square (details and explanation upon request)

What about cleaning up behind the carriage horse? Each horse would be fitted with a manure bag, and emptied regularly.

Where will the horses be kept? A private stable, 1 block north of the Main Street Bridge.