



Dennis J. Newman  
*Executive Vice President, Strategy, Planning and Accessibility*

May 19, 2022

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

**Re: FY22 USDOT Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant (MPDG) Application  
At-Grade Rail Safety Improvements to Reestablish the Heartland Flyer Northern Extension (OK)**

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

On behalf of the National Railroad Passenger Corporation (Amtrak), I am writing to express our support for the Oklahoma Department of Transportation's (ODOT) application submitted under the United States Department of Transportation's (USDOT) FY22 Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant (MPDG): Rural Surface Transportation (Rural) grant program for the ***At-Grade Rail Safety Improvements to Reestablish the Heartland Flyer Northern Extension Project*** (Project) in Oklahoma, Noble, Logan and Kay Counties in Oklahoma.

The Project will improve safety at 52 at-grade crossing locations by systematically updating these at-grade crossing warning devices to facilitate safe and efficient freight and new passenger rail operations. Project scope items include flashing lights, gates, and medians.

The Project will facilitate the restoration of Amtrak's State Supported *Heartland Flyer* Northern Extension service. The Northern Extension project will connect smaller cities in the corridor with Wichita and Oklahoma City. This would improve mobility for underserved communities, connecting residents to new education and employment opportunities along the corridor. The Heartland Flyer project is included in ***Amtrak's Connects US*** Vision Plan.

Thank you for your consideration of ODOT's grant application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D.J.N.", written in a cursive style.

Dennis J. Newman  
*Executive Vice President, Strategy, Planning and Accessibility*

cc: Thaddaeus Babb, Multimodal Freight Mobility Manager, ODOT, [tbabb@odot.org](mailto:tbabb@odot.org)