

May 13, 2022

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
U.S. Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

RE: MPDG Application for At-Grade Rail Safety Improvements.

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I am pleased to submit a letter of support for the Oklahoma Department of Transportation's Multimodal Projects Discretionary Grant (MPDG) application for the At-Grade Rail Safety Improvements to Reestablish the Heartland Flyer Northern Extension.

This project will improve safety at 52 at-grade crossing locations by systematically updating the at-grade crossing warning devices to facilitate safe and efficient freight and new passenger rail operations. Additionally, these upgrades will aide in reestablishing passenger rail service north into Kansas.

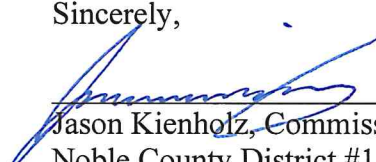
The at-grade railroad safety improvements will include 14 crossings in Perry, 4 in Red Rock, and 6 in Marland. The safety enhancements include but are not limited to;

- Improving the smoothness of the crossing surface. A rough surface may contribute to a collision by diverting the road user's attention from the prime tasks of observing the crossing signals and looking for a train.
- Flashing-light signals, which are a fundamental active warning device. The flashing-light signals consist of two red light units that flash alternately at a rate of 35 to 65 times per minute.
- Audible bells sounds to improve safety for non-motorized road users such as pedestrians and bicyclists.

I urge your support in awarding funding to this project so these critical transportation improvements may occur.

Thank you for your consideration of Oklahoma Transportation's MPDG application for At-Grade Rail Safety Improvements to Reestablish the Heartland Flyer Northern Extension. Please feel free to call on us should you have questions or if you require additional information.

Sincerely,



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