

October 11, 2022

Administrator Amit Bose
Federal Railroad Administration
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Administrator Bose:

I am pleased to support the Oklahoma Department of Transportation's (ODOT) application for the Federal Railroad Administration's Railroad Crossing Elimination (RCE) grant for an Occupied Crossing Mitigation Project in Davis, Oklahoma.

If granted, this project would eliminate two railroad crossings in the City of Davis, while at the same time construct a number of other railroad safety and operational improvements that would significantly reduce the time that freight trains block crossings in Davis.

In the City of Davis, the railroad line bisects the city and when Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) trains serve nearby industries, trains will often block crossings – including the city's Main Street – for hours at a time. Fatalities have occurred at Davis' crossings in the past, and when trains block crossings, emergency responders must detour miles around the city, even if responding to an incident only a few blocks away.

Enhancing safety at railroad crossings and eliminating railroad crossings altogether is a statewide priority across Oklahoma. With RCE grant funding, ODOT and the City of Davis, in partnership with BNSF, would be able to address this critical safety and mobility problem for the community. In addition to eliminating two existing crossings in the City of Davis, the project will construct nearly two miles of new siding track that will allow freight trains to serve industrial sites without blocking the Main Street crossing or other key crossings.

I appreciate your consideration of ODOT's application for RCE grant funding. Please contact Davis Bunn (202-224-0144 or Davis_Bunn@inhofe.senate.gov) on my staff if you have any questions related to this project.

Sincerely,



James M. Inhofe
United States Senator