



## Funding Commitments

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Office of the Executive Director  
**Tim J. Gatz**  
200 NE 21<sup>st</sup> St.  
Oklahoma City, OK 73105  
(405) 522-1800

August 30, 2024

Amit Bose, Administrator  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
Federal Railroad Administration  
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE  
Washington DC, 20590  
Re: Railroad Crossing Elimination (RCE) Grant Program

Dear Administrator Bose:

On behalf of the Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT), I am pleased to present this application for Railroad Crossing Elimination (RCE) Program grant funds. We take pride in our mission "to provide a safe, economical and effective transportation network for the people, commerce and communities of Oklahoma" and this application has been developed in this spirit. If awarded, this project will address the pressing issue of railroad stoppages that obstruct the Main Street and hinder community access throughout downtown Davis.

The City of Davis has long grappled with the issue of blocked railroad crossings on SH-7/Main Street and the accompanying safety challenges. The city is bisected by railroad tracks that serve both BNSF freight trains and Amtrak's Heartland Flyer passenger service. The Oklahoma portion of this project, supported by the City of Davis and the BNSF, will solve this problem once and for all. This grant request is for \$25.5M toward an estimated \$31.8M Total project cost, which includes ODOT and BNSF matching funds of about \$3.2M each.

The Occupied Crossing Mitigation project consists of closing at-grade crossing locations in Davis at Atlanta Avenue and Hanover Road and removing siding track from Benton Avenue and Main Street (US-77/SH-7). Additional siding and industry operations will be relocated south of Hanover Road by providing slightly less than 2 miles of new siding to reduce the impact of loading trains that currently occupy multiple crossings in the city. The project will also provide safety improvements at Benton Avenue, Main Street, and Haliburton Road at-grade crossings to support safe and reliable movements of goods, people, and services.

ODOT is committing \$3,180,000 in non-federal funds of future eligible project costs as local match for the Occupied Crossing Mitigation project in Davis, OK, should it be selected for award of RCE grant funds.

Thank you very much for your consideration. Please feel free to call Dawn Sullivan, Deputy Director at (405) 521-4768, should you have questions or if we can provide additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tim J. Gatz", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Tim J. Gatz  
Executive Director

TJG:DRS

*"The mission of the Oklahoma Department of Transportation is to provide a safe, economical, and effective transportation network for the people, commerce and communities of Oklahoma."*

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER



**French Thompson**  
General Director  
Public Infrastructure & Investments

**BNSF Railway Company**  
P. O. Box 961502  
Fort Worth, TX 76161-0052

2600 Lou Menk Drive  
Fort Worth, Texas 76131-2830  
(817) 352-1549

French.Thompson@BNSF.com

September 23, 2024

Amit Bose, Administrator  
Federal Railroad Administration  
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Subject: Letter of Support – Occupied Crossing Mitigation Project

Dear Administrator Bose,

BNSF Railway supports efforts by the Oklahoma Department of Transportation to secure federal discretionary funding under the 2023/2024 Railroad Crossing Elimination (RCE) grant for the Occupied Crossing Mitigation Project in Davis, Oklahoma. This project will help to improve connectivity and mobility, safety, quality of life, resiliency, and reduce emissions. If awarded, BNSF would be willing to contribute \$3,180,000.00 in private matching funds towards the \$31,810,000.00 total project cost if the request of \$25,450,000.00 is granted in RCE funds.

The Occupied Crossing Mitigation Project consists of closing two at-grade crossings at Atlanta Avenue (DOT No. 020740J) and Hanover Road (DOT No. 020739P), removing the siding between Benton Avenue (DOT No. 020742X) and Main Street (U.S. Highway 77/State Highway 7, DOT No. 020741R), and reconstructing the siding south of Haliburton Road (DOT No. 020735M). The multiple crossing closures along with the relocation of the siding and associated industry and switching operations outside of Davis will reduce the exposure between trains and the public, thereby helping to increase safety, improve connectivity, mobility, and reduce emissions. This will also allow faster Amtrak Heartland Flyer trains to overtake freight trains in this region, improving rail efficiency.

BNSF values our working relationship with the Oklahoma Department of Transportation and is prepared to work with all involved public agencies on further development of this project, subject to satisfactory review of funding requirements, final engineering, and entering into definitive agreements as may be required by BNSF or other project stakeholders.

BNSF appreciates your thorough review of this application and looks forward to continuing its relationship with the Oklahoma Department of Transportation through this important project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "French Thompson", written over a horizontal line.

French Thompson  
General Director – Public Infrastructure & Investments