



## Letters of Support

---

JAMES LANKFORD  
OKLAHOMA

316 HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510  
(202) 224-5754

## United States Senate

COMMITTEES:  
FINANCE  
ETHICS  
INTELLIGENCE  
HOMELAND SECURITY AND  
GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

September 20, 2024

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

Dear Administrator Bose:

I am pleased to write this letter in support of the Oklahoma Department of Transportation's (ODOT) application for funding through the Railroad Crossing Elimination (RCE) grant program. The proposed project will address the pressing issue of railroad stoppages that obstruct Main Street and hinder community access throughout downtown Davis, OK.

Winding alongside Interstate 35 (I-35) in Southern Oklahoma is a stretch of rail that is served by both BNSF freight trains and Amtrak's Heartland Flyer, the only intercity passenger rail service in Oklahoma. The rail services 24 trains per day and is vital infrastructure for the movement of freight and passengers. However, the City of Davis has consistently faced challenges with blocked railroad crossings and related safety concerns. As a result, when a train blocks a crossing, it causes delays and congestion for motorists and pedestrians citywide. These ongoing blockages significantly affect the quality of life, economic vitality, and safety of Davis residents.

The proposed *Occupied Crossing Mitigation Project* consists of closing two at-grade crossing locations and removing the siding track to address the ongoing safety and mobility issues of occupied railroad crossings. A federal investment to this project will improve connectivity, safety, quality of life, and reduce exposure in rural Oklahoma. Additionally, completion of the project will reduce delays for motorists and emergency services, improve the reliability of the freight trains and Amtrak service, allowing the railroads to operate more efficiently throughout the corridor.

Thank you in advance for your strong consideration of ODOT's application for funding through the Railroad Crossing Elimination (RCE) grant program. Please contact my office should you need any further assistance as you consider this important proposal.

In God We Trust,



James Lankford  
United States Senator for Oklahoma

**TOM COLE**  
4TH DISTRICT, OKLAHOMA

DEPUTY WHIP

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS  
CHAIRMAN



**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**

**PLEASE REPLY TO:**

- 2207 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
(202) 225-6165
- 2424 SPRINGER DRIVE  
SUITE 201  
NORMAN, OK 73069  
(405) 329-6500
- 711 SW D AVENUE  
SUITE 201  
LAWTON, OK 73501  
(580) 357-2131
- SUGG CLINIC OFFICE BUILDING  
100 EAST 13TH STREET, SUITE 213  
ADA, OK 74820  
(580) 436-5375

September 11, 2024

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

**Re: FRA's Railroad Crossing Elimination Grant Program**

Dear Administrator Bose:

I am writing to express my support for the Oklahoma Department of Transportation's grant application for the Occupied Crossing Mitigation Project under the Railroad Crossing Elimination Grant Program. If awarded, this project will address the pressing issue of railroad stoppages that obstruct Main Street and hinder community access throughout downtown Davis.

The City of Davis has consistently faced challenges with blocked railroad crossings and related safety concerns. The city is divided by railroad tracks used by both BNSF freight trains and Amtrak's Heartland Flyer passenger service. As a result, when a train blocks a crossing, it causes delays and congestion for motorists and pedestrians citywide. These ongoing blockages significantly affect the quality of life, economic vitality, and safety of Davis residents.

If you have questions, please reach out to my office. Thank you for your consideration of this important project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tom Cole".

---

Tom Cole  
Member of Congress

# Oklahoma State Senate

Jerry Alvord  
Senator  
State Capitol Building  
2300 N. Lincoln Blvd.  
Oklahoma City, OK 73105



District 14  
(405) 521-5607  
jerry.alvord@oksenate.gov  
www.oksenate.gov

September 10, 2024

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

RE: Occupied Crossing Mitigation Project - Railroad Crossing Elimination (RCE) Grant Program (Davis, OK)

Dear Administrator Bose:

I am writing to express my strong support for the Occupied Crossing Mitigation Project in Davis, OK, which I believe is an outstanding candidate for the Railroad Crossing Elimination (RCE) Grant Program. This project will enhance safety and quality of life for Davis residents, while addressing railroad stoppages that obstruct Main Street and hinder community accessibility and economic well-being.

The issue of blocked main streets due to railroad stoppages also has significant safety implications. Emergency services often face delays in responding to critical situations, potentially jeopardizing lives, and property. By addressing the safety issues posed by the lengthy railroad crossing blockages in Davis, OK, the Occupied Crossing Mitigation Project will contribute to a safer environment where prompt emergency responses can be ensured. This project will also revitalize downtown Davis by improving accessibility and movement, attracting more residents and visitors. Increased foot traffic and a better ambiance will boost local commerce and strengthen the neighborhood's economic fabric.

I strongly urge the Railroad Crossing Elimination (RCE) Grant Program to consider the project as a priority for funding. Thank you for your consideration of this important project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jerry Alvord".

Jerry Alvord  
Senate District 14



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

September 18, 2024

The Honorable Amit Bose  
Administrator  
Federal Railroad Administration  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

**Re: FRA's FY23/FY24 Railroad Crossing Elimination Grant Program: Letter of Support (OK)**

Dear Administrator Bose,

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 Federal Railroad Administration's (FRA) FY23/FY24 Railroad Crossing Elimination (RCE) grant program for ***The Occupied Crossing Mitigation Project*** (Project) located in Davis, Oklahoma.

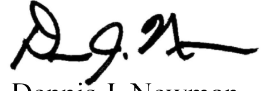
The Project will close two at-grade railroad crossings along the BNSF railroad line at Atlanta Avenue and Hanover Road. The five railroad crossings safety improvements included in the project scope are located at Benton Avenue (020742X), Main Street (DOT #020741R), Atlanta Avenue (DOT# 020740J), Hanover Road (DOT #020739P), and Haliburton Road/County Road N-3310 (DOT #020735M). The Project will also include the construction of approximately 9,920 feet of track siding to the south and remove 4,170 feet of existing siding from Benton Avenue and Main Street. All siding and industry operations will be south of Main Street and about 300 feet north of the Haliburton Road/County Road N-3310 railroad crossings.

The elimination of the two crossings along the corridor and the addition of enhanced crossing safety infrastructure will enhance safety and reliability along Amtrak's State-Supported *Heartland Flyer* corridor by reducing the potential for rail-vehicle or rail-pedestrian interactions. Every year, surface transportation experiences thousands of train collisions at highway grade crossings in the United States. The Project will result in substantial public-rail interface hazard mitigation that will benefit the surrounding communities.

*September 18, 2024*  
*The Honorable Amit Bose*  
*Page 2*

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D.J.N.", with a stylized flourish at the end.

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

cc: Kristen Carollo, Waterways Program Manager, ODOT, [Kristen.carollo@odot.ok.gov](mailto:Kristen.carollo@odot.ok.gov)



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

Subject: Letter of Support for Occupied Crossing Mitigation Project - Railroad Crossing Elimination (RCE) Grant Program (Davis, OK)

Dear Administrator Bose:

The City of Davis fully supports the Oklahoma Department of Transportation's efforts, in collaboration with BNSF, to secure federal discretionary planning funding through the Railroad Crossing Elimination (RCE) grant program for the Occupied Crossing Mitigation project.

The City of Davis has long dealt with the issue of lengthy railroad crossing blockages at main streets, which also carry significant safety implications. Emergency services often face delays in responding to critical situations, potentially jeopardizing lives, and property. By addressing the safety concerns posed by the lengthy railroad crossing blockages in Davis, OK, the Occupied Crossing Mitigation Project will contribute to a safer environment where prompt emergency responses can be ensured. This project will also revitalize downtown Davis by improving accessibility and movement, attracting more residents and visitors, and enhancing the City's economic well-being.

I strongly urge the Railroad Crossing Elimination (RCE) Grant Program to consider the Occupied Crossing Mitigation project in Davis, OK as a priority for funding. Thank you for your consideration of this important project.

Sincerely,

Brian Davis  
Mayor, City of Davis  
227 E. Main Street  
Davis, OK 73030  
580-369-3333

*Serving the Citizens, Businesses, Employees, and Community Partners of Davis.*

**227 E. Main St. Davis, OK 73030 (580) 369-3333**

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

Subject: Letter of Support for Occupied Crossing Mitigation Project - Railroad Crossing Elimination (RCE) Grant Program (Davis, OK)

Dear Administrator Bose:

The City of Davis fully supports the Oklahoma Department of Transportation's efforts, in collaboration with BNSF, to secure federal discretionary planning funding through the Railroad Crossing Elimination (RCE) grant program for the Occupied Crossing Mitigation project.

The City of Davis has long dealt with the issue of lengthy railroad crossing blockages at main streets, which also carry significant safety implications. Emergency services often face delays in responding to critical situations, potentially jeopardizing lives, and property. By addressing the safety concerns posed by the lengthy railroad crossing blockages in Davis, OK, the Occupied Crossing Mitigation Project will contribute to a safer environment where prompt emergency responses can be ensured. This project will also revitalize downtown Davis by improving accessibility and movement, attracting more residents and visitors, and enhancing the City's economic well-being.

I strongly urge the Railroad Crossing Elimination (RCE) Grant Program to consider the Occupied Crossing Mitigation project in Davis, OK as a priority for funding. Thank you for your consideration of this important project.

Sincerely,

*Jana Smith*

*Chigley & Co. / The Fountain*

*218 E. Main St.*

*Davis, OK 73030*



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

Subject: Letter of Support for Occupied Crossing Mitigation Project - Railroad Crossing Elimination (RCE) Grant Program (Davis, OK)

Dear Administrator Bose:

The City of Davis fully supports the Oklahoma Department of Transportation's efforts, in collaboration with BNSF, to secure federal discretionary planning funding through the Railroad Crossing Elimination (RCE) grant program for the Occupied Crossing Mitigation project.

The City of Davis has long dealt with the issue of lengthy railroad crossing blockages at main streets, which also carry significant safety implications. Emergency services often face delays in responding to critical situations, potentially jeopardizing lives, and property. By addressing the safety concerns posed by the lengthy railroad crossing blockages in Davis, OK, the Occupied Crossing Mitigation Project will contribute to a safer environment where prompt emergency responses can be ensured. This project will also revitalize downtown Davis by improving accessibility and movement, attracting more residents and visitors, and enhancing the City's economic well-being.

I strongly urge the Railroad Crossing Elimination (RCE) Grant Program to consider the Occupied Crossing Mitigation project in Davis, OK as a priority for funding. Thank you for your consideration of this important project.

Sincerely,

*Relanda Rogers, owner Blooming Boutique 216 E. Main Davis, OK*

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

Subject: Letter of Support for Occupied Crossing Mitigation Project - Railroad Crossing Elimination (RCE) Grant Program (Davis, OK)

Dear Administrator Bose:

The City of Davis fully supports the Oklahoma Department of Transportation's efforts, in collaboration with BNSF, to secure federal discretionary planning funding through the Railroad Crossing Elimination (RCE) grant program for the Occupied Crossing Mitigation project.

The City of Davis has long dealt with the issue of lengthy railroad crossing blockages at main streets, which also carry significant safety implications. Emergency services often face delays in responding to critical situations, potentially jeopardizing lives, and property. By addressing the safety concerns posed by the lengthy railroad crossing blockages in Davis, OK, the Occupied Crossing Mitigation Project will contribute to a safer environment where prompt emergency responses can be ensured. This project will also revitalize downtown Davis by improving accessibility and movement, attracting more residents and visitors, and enhancing the City's economic well-being.

I strongly urge the Railroad Crossing Elimination (RCE) Grant Program to consider the Occupied Crossing Mitigation project in Davis, OK as a priority for funding. Thank you for your consideration of this important project.

Sincerely,



9-10-24



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

Subject: Letter of Support – Occupied Crossing Mitigation Project (Davis, OK)

Dear Administrator Bose,

We are pleased to write this letter in support of the Oklahoma Department of Transportation to secure federal discretionary planning funding under the Railroad Crossing Elimination (RCE) grant for the Occupied Crossing Mitigation project in Davis, OK. If awarded, this project will help to improve connectivity and mobility, safety, quality of life, resiliency, and reduce emissions along the Amtrak Heartland Flyer corridor utilizing the BNSF Red Rock Subdivision.

The Occupied Crossing Mitigation project in Davis, OK consists of closing two at-grade crossings at Atlanta Avenue and Hanover Road, removing the siding between Benton Avenue and Main Street (US Highway 77/State Highway 7), and reconstructing the siding south of Haliburton Road. The crossing closures along with the relocation of the siding and associated industry and switching operations outside of city will reduce the exposure between trains and the public thereby increasing safety, improving connectivity, mobility, and reducing emissions. This will allow faster Amtrak trains to overtake freight trains in this region along with providing a reduction in exposure between the public and trains, thereby increasing safety, connectivity, mobility, and reducing emissions.

Thank you in advance for your strong consideration of ODOT's application for the Railroad Crossing Elimination Program. Please contact our offices if you need any further assistance as you consider this important proposal.

Sincerely,

Kyle Henry

Regional Transportation Planner  
Southeastern Regional Transportation Planning Organization (SERTPO)  
Southern Oklahoma Development Association  
P.O. BOX 709  
2704 N. First Ave.  
Durant, OK 74702-0709  
Office: 580-920-1388  
Cell: 580-775-8618