

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 seeks to complete a comprehensive master planning effort to evaluate at-grade rail crossings within the urban areas serviced by the Regional Transportation Authority of Central Oklahoma (RTA).

The *Prioritizing Crossings to Save Lives in Central Oklahoma Project* is being led by ODOT in partnership with the RTA, and the cities of Edmond, Oklahoma City, and Norman. Due to a history of incidents at the at-grade crossings within the RTA's service area, this project seeks to develop a prioritization matrix identifying grade-separation, safety improvements, and closure projects that provide the greatest benefits to disadvantaged communities, safety, emissions, accessibility to emergency services, community connectivity, and good jobs. Public engagement will also be a key part of the project to identify community concerns and to present prioritization results.

The proposed project will evaluate 52 at-grade crossings and provide recommendations and priorities for improving the corridor's safety and efficiency. The ultimate elimination of at-grade crossings will improve safety for pedestrians, cyclists, and motorists in the Central Oklahoma region. A federal investment into this project will allow for regional cooperation and provide a framework for eliminating or mitigating the effects of these at-grade crossings.

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 12, 2024

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

Re: FRA's Railroad Crossing Elimination Grant Program

Dear Administrator Bose:

We are writing to express our support for the Oklahoma Department of Transportation's grant application for the Prioritizing Crossings to Save Lives in Central Oklahoma Project under the Railroad Crossing Elimination Program.

This critical planning project will complete a comprehensive master planning effort evaluating 52 at-grade crossings within the urban areas serviced by the Regional Transportation Authority of Central Oklahoma (RTA). The RTA, in partnership with BNSF and the cities of Edmond, Oklahoma City, and Norman, seeks to use 37 miles of the existing BNSF freight network through Oklahoma City for the proposed North-South commuter rail service. Due to a history of incidents at the at-grade crossings within the RTA's service area, this project seeks to develop a prioritization matrix identifying grade separation, safety improvements, and closure projects that provide the greatest benefits to the impacted communities.

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

Sincerely,

Tom Cole
Member of Congress

Frank D. Lucas
Member of Congress

Stephanie Bice
Member of Congress



James Tylick
Assistant Vice President
Passenger Operations

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

2650 Lou Menk Drive
Fort Worth, Texas 76131-2830
(817) 867-5040

James.Tylick@BNSF.com

September 23, 2024

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

Subject: Letter of Support – Prioritizing Crossings To Save Lives In Central Oklahoma

Dear Administrator Bose,

BNSF Railway supports efforts by the Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT) to secure federal discretionary funding under the 2023/2024 Railroad Crossing Elimination (RCE) grant for the Prioritizing Crossings To Save Lives In Central Oklahoma project. This project will develop a comprehensive master planning effort that will evaluate fifty-two (52) at-grade crossings from Norman, Oklahoma to Edmund, Oklahoma.

This study will aid in developing a program of projects throughout the urban areas serviced by the Regional Transportation Authority of Central Oklahoma seeking to identify future grade separations, safety improvements, and crossing closures within Oklahoma's largest metro region. Advancing this project will help facilitate rail and roadway safety, reduce emissions, improve community connectivity, and enhancing economic development within disadvantaged communities.

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 final engineering and entering into definitive agreements as may be required by BNSF or other project stakeholders. Any expansion of passenger rail service will be reviewed against BNSF's Passenger Principles.

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 blue ink, appearing to read "James Tylick", written over a light blue horizontal line.

James Tylick
Assistant Vice President of Passenger Operations



Dwight D. Eisenhower State Office Building
700 S.W. Harrison Street
Topeka, KS 66603-3745

Calvin E. Reed, P.E., Secretary
Cory Davis, Director

Phone: 785-296-7984
kdot#publicinfo@ks.gov
<http://www.ksdot.gov>
Laura Kelly, Governor

September 23, 2024

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

Dear Administrator Bose:

The Kansas Department of Transportation supports the Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT)'s request for FY24 Railroad Crossing Elimination (RCE) Program funding to support the Prioritizing Crossings to Save Lives in Central Oklahoma Project (Project).

This critical planning project will complete a comprehensive master planning effort evaluating 52 at-grade crossings within the urban areas serviced by the Regional Transportation Authority of Central Oklahoma (RTA). The RTA, in partnership with BNSF and the cities of Edmond, Oklahoma City, and Norman, seeks to use 37 miles of the existing BNSF freight network through Oklahoma City for the proposed North/South commuter rail service. Due to a history of incidents at the at-grade crossings within the RTA's service area, this Project seeks to develop a prioritization matrix identifying grade-separation, safety improvements, and closure projects that provide the greatest benefits to disadvantaged communities, safety, emissions, accessibility to emergency services, community connectivity, and good jobs.

The Project will lead to the elimination of highway-rail grade crossings, thus reducing the impacts of freight and railroad operations on underserved communities, while also supporting the RTA's proposed North/South commuter rail service. The elimination of at-grade crossings will improve safety for pedestrians, cyclists, and motorists which supports USDOT's mission of Vision Zero.

The Kansas Department of Transportation is pleased to support ODOT's RCE grant application for the Project. Thank you for your consideration of this important project and please don't hesitate to contact my office with any questions.

Sincerely,

Cory Davis
Director of Multimodal Transportation and Innovation
Kansas Department of Transportation



Dennis J. Newman
Executive Vice President, Strategy and Planning

September 20, 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 (OK DOT) application submitted under the Federal Railroad Administration's (FRA) FY23/FY24 Railroad Crossing Elimination (RCE) grant program for the *Prioritizing Crossings to Save Lives in Central Oklahoma Project* (Project) located in Central Oklahoma.

This critical planning project will complete a comprehensive master planning effort evaluating 52 at-grade crossings within the urban areas serviced by the Regional Transportation Authority of Central Oklahoma (RTA). The RTA, in partnership with BNSF Railway (BNSF) and the cities of Edmond, Oklahoma City, and Norman, seeks to use 37 miles of the existing BNSF freight network through Oklahoma City for the proposed North/South commuter rail service. Due to a history of incidents at the at-grade crossings within the RTA's service area, this Project seeks to develop a prioritization matrix identifying grade-separation, safety improvements, and closure projects that provide the greatest benefits to disadvantaged communities, safety, emissions, accessibility to emergency services, community connectivity, and good jobs.

The Project will lead to the elimination of highway-rail grade crossings, thus reducing the impacts of freight and railroad operations on underserved communities, while also supporting the RTA's proposed North/South commuter rail service. The elimination of at-grade crossings will improve safety for pedestrians, cyclists, and motorists which supports USDOT's mission of Vision Zero.

The Project will also benefit Amtrak's State-Supported *Heartland Flyer* intercity passenger rail services along the Corridor.

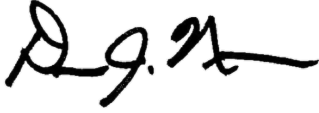
The proposed elimination of at-grade crossings and the addition of enhanced crossing safety infrastructure along the corridor will enhance safety and reliability along the corridor by reducing the potential for rail-vehicle or rail-pedestrian interactions. Every year, surface transportation experiences

September 18, 2024
The Honorable Amit Bose
Page 2

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.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

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

Dennis J. Newman
Executive Vice President, Strategy and Planning

cc: Bart Vleugels, OK DOT Active Transportation Coordinator, bvleugels@odot.org

September 11, 2024

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

RE: FY 24 Railroad Crossing Elimination (RCE) Program

Dear Administrator Bose:

The Association of Central Oklahoma Governments (ACOG) supports the Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT)'s request for FY 24 Railroad Crossing Elimination (RCE) Program funding to support the Prioritizing Crossings to Save Lives in Central Oklahoma Project (Project).

This critical planning project will complete a comprehensive master planning effort evaluating 52 at-grade crossings within the urban areas serviced by the Regional Transportation Authority of Central Oklahoma (RTA). The RTA, in partnership with BNSF and the cities of Edmond, Oklahoma City, and Norman, seeks to use 37 miles of the existing BNSF freight network through Oklahoma City for the proposed North/South commuter rail service. Due to a history of incidents at the at-grade crossings within the RTA's service area, this Project seeks to develop a prioritization matrix identifying grade-separation, safety improvements, and closure projects that provide the greatest benefits to disadvantaged communities, safety, emissions, accessibility to emergency services, community connectivity, and good jobs.

The Project will lead to the elimination of highway-rail grade crossings, thus reducing the impacts of freight and railroad operations on underserved communities, while also supporting the RTA's proposed North/South commuter rail service. The elimination of at-grade crossings will improve safety for pedestrians, cyclists, and motorists which supports USDOT's mission of Vision Zero.

ACOG is pleased to support ODOT's RCE grant application for the Project. Thank you for your consideration of this important project and please do not hesitate to contact my office with any questions.

Sincerely,



John M. Sharp
Deputy Director



Regional Transportation Authority
of Central Oklahoma

2000 S MAY AVENUE,
OKLAHOMA CITY, OK 73108

405.297.1331

rtaok.org

September 23, 2024

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

Dear Administrator Bose,

The Regional Transportation Authority of Central Oklahoma supports the Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT)'s request for FY24 Railroad Crossing Elimination (RCE) Program funding to support the Prioritizing Crossings to Save Lives in Central Oklahoma Project (Project).

This critical planning project will complete a comprehensive master planning effort evaluating 52 at-grade crossings within the urban areas serviced by the Regional Transportation Authority of Central Oklahoma (RTA). The RTA, in partnership with BNSF and the cities of Edmond, Oklahoma City, and Norman, seeks to use 37 miles of the existing BNSF freight network through Oklahoma City for the proposed North/South commuter rail service. Due to a history of incidents at the at-grade crossings within the RTA's service area, this Project seeks to develop a prioritization matrix identifying grade-separation, safety improvements, and closure projects that provide the greatest benefits to disadvantaged communities, safety, emissions, accessibility to emergency services, community connectivity, and good jobs.

The Project will lead to the elimination of highway-rail grade crossings, thus reducing the impacts of freight and railroad operations on underserved communities, while also supporting the RTA's proposed North/South commuter rail service. The elimination of at-grade crossings will improve safety for pedestrians, cyclists, and motorists which supports USDOT's mission of Vision Zero.

The Regional Transportation Authority of Central Oklahoma is pleased to support ODOT's RCE grant application for the Project. Thank you for your consideration of this important project and please don't hesitate to contact my office with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jason Ferbrache". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jason" being more prominent than the last name "Ferbrache".

Jason Ferbrache

RTA Interim Executive Director



**THE CITY OF
OKLAHOMA CITY**

Mayor David Holt

200 N Walker, 3rd Floor
Oklahoma City, OK 73102

ph 405/297-2424
mayor@okc.gov

 @davidholt

 fb.com/mayordavidholt

 @mayordavidholt

 okc.gov/mayor

September 23, 2024

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

Dear Administrator Bose,

The City of Oklahoma City supports the Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT)'s request for FY24 Railroad Crossing Elimination (RCE) Program funding to support the Prioritizing Crossings to Save Lives in Central Oklahoma Project (Project).

This critical planning project will complete a comprehensive master planning effort evaluating 52 at-grade crossings within the urban areas serviced by the Regional Transportation Authority of Central Oklahoma (RTA). The RTA, in partnership with BNSF and the cities of Edmond, Oklahoma City and Norman, seeks to use 37 miles of the existing BNSF freight network through Oklahoma City for the proposed North/South commuter rail service. Due to a history of incidents at the at-grade crossings within the RTA's service area, this Project seeks to develop a prioritization matrix identifying grade-separation, safety improvements, and closure projects that provide the greatest benefits to disadvantaged communities, safety, emissions, accessibility to emergency services, community connectivity and good jobs.

The Project will lead to the elimination of highway-rail grade crossings, thus reducing the impacts of freight and railroad operations on underserved communities, while also supporting the RTA's proposed North/South commuter rail service. The elimination of at-grade crossings will improve safety for pedestrians, cyclists, and motorists which supports USDOT's mission of Vision Zero.

The City of Oklahoma City is pleased to support ODOT's RCE grant application for the Project. Thank you for your consideration of this important project and please don't hesitate to contact my office with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Holt".

David Holt
Mayor



The City of **NORMAN**

201 West Gray
Norman, Oklahoma 73069

CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE

Phone: (405) 366-5402

September 19, 2024

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

Dear Administrator Bose,

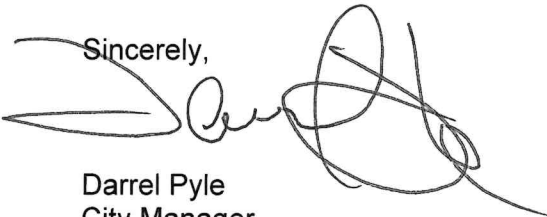
The City of Norman supports the Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT)'s request for FY24 Railroad Crossing Elimination (RCE) Program funding to support the Prioritizing Crossings to Save Lives in Central Oklahoma Project (Project).

This critical planning project will complete a comprehensive master planning effort evaluating 52 at-grade crossings within the urban areas serviced by the Regional Transportation Authority of Central Oklahoma (RTA). The RTA, in partnership with BNSF and the cities of Edmond, Oklahoma City, and Norman, seeks to use 37 miles of the existing BNSF freight network through Oklahoma City for the proposed North/South commuter rail service. Due to a history of incidents at the at-grade crossings within the RTA's service area, this Project seeks to develop a prioritization matrix identifying grade-separation, safety improvements, and closure projects that provide the greatest benefits to disadvantaged communities, safety, emissions, accessibility to emergency services, community connectivity, and good jobs.

The Project will lead to the elimination of highway-rail grade crossings, thus reducing the impacts of freight and railroad operations on underserved communities, while also supporting the RTA's proposed North/South commuter rail service. The elimination of at-grade crossings will improve safety for pedestrians, cyclists, and motorists which supports USDOT's mission of Vision Zero.

The City of Norman is pleased to support ODOT's RCE grant application for the Project. Thank you for your consideration of this important project and please don't hesitate to contact my office with any questions.

Sincerely,



Darrel Pyle
City Manager



September 17, 2024

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

Dear Administrator Bose,

The City of Edmond supports the Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT)'s request for FY24 Railroad Crossing Elimination (RCE) Program funding to support the Prioritizing Crossings to Save Lives in Central Oklahoma Project (Project).

This critical planning project will complete a comprehensive master planning effort evaluating 52 at-grade crossings within the urban areas serviced by the Regional Transportation Authority of Central Oklahoma (RTA). The RTA, in partnership with BNSF and the cities of Edmond, Oklahoma City, and Norman, seeks to use 37 miles of the existing BNSF freight network through Oklahoma City for the proposed North/South commuter rail service. Due to a history of incidents at the at-grade crossings within the RTA's service area, this Project seeks to develop a prioritization matrix identifying grade-separation, safety improvements, and closure projects that provide the greatest benefits to disadvantaged communities, safety, emissions, accessibility to emergency services, community connectivity, and good jobs.

The Project will lead to the elimination of highway-rail grade crossings, thus reducing the impacts of freight and railroad operations on underserved communities, while also supporting the RTA's proposed North/South commuter rail service. The elimination of at-grade crossings will improve safety for pedestrians, cyclists, and motorists which supports USDOT's mission of Vision Zero.

The City of Edmond is pleased to support ODOT's RCE grant application for the Project. Thank you for your consideration of this important project and please don't hesitate to contact my office with any questions.

Sincerely,

Mayor, City of Edmond

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

The City of Edmond | P.O. Box 2970 | Edmond, OK 73083-2970

Phone: (405) 359-4642 | Darrell.Davis@EdmondOK.gov | EdmondOK.gov



CITY OF NICHOLS HILLS

September 9, 2024

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

Dear Administrator Bose,

The City of Nichols Hills, Oklahoma supports the Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT)'s request for FY24 Railroad Crossing Elimination (RCE) Program funding to support the Prioritizing Crossings to Save Lives in Central Oklahoma Project (Project).

This critical planning project will complete a comprehensive master planning effort evaluating 52 at-grade crossings within the urban areas serviced by the Regional Transportation Authority of Central Oklahoma (RTA). The RTA, in partnership with BNSF and the cities of Edmond, Oklahoma City, and Norman, seeks to use 37 miles of the existing BNSF freight network through Oklahoma City for the proposed North/South commuter rail service. Due to a history of incidents at the at-grade crossings within the RTA's service area, this Project seeks to develop a prioritization matrix identifying grade-separation, safety improvements, and closure projects that provide the greatest benefits to disadvantaged communities, safety, emissions, accessibility to emergency services, community connectivity, and good jobs.

The Project will lead to the elimination of highway-rail grade crossings, thus reducing the impacts of freight and railroad operations on underserved communities, while also supporting the RTA's proposed North/South commuter rail service. The elimination of at-grade crossings will improve safety for pedestrians, cyclists, and motorists which supports USDOT's mission of Vision Zero.

The City of Nichols Hills, Oklahoma is pleased to support ODOT's RCE grant application for the Project. Thank you for your consideration of this important project and please don't hesitate to contact my office with any questions.

Sincerely,

S. Shane Pate II,
City Manager



The City of The Village

Office of the City Manager

Dave Slezcickey

(405)751-8661 ext. 259

(405)368-3705 *cell*

2304 Manchester Dr., The Village, OK 73120 www.thevillageok.gov

dave@thevillageok.gov

September 23, 2024

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

Dear Administrator Bose,

The City of The Village supports the Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT)'s request for FY24 Railroad Crossing Elimination (RCE) Program funding to support the Prioritizing Crossings to Save Lives in Central Oklahoma Project (Project).

This critical planning project will complete a comprehensive master planning effort evaluating 52 at-grade crossings within the urban areas serviced by the Regional Transportation Authority of Central Oklahoma (RTA). The RTA, in partnership with BNSF and the cities of Edmond, Oklahoma City, and Norman, seeks to use 37 miles of the existing BNSF freight network through Oklahoma City for the proposed North/South commuter rail service. Due to a history of incidents at the at-grade crossings within the RTA's service area, this Project seeks to develop a prioritization matrix identifying grade-separation, safety improvements, and closure projects that provide the greatest benefits to disadvantaged communities, safety, emissions, accessibility to emergency services, community connectivity, and good jobs.

The Project will lead to the elimination of highway-rail grade crossings, thus reducing the impacts of freight and railroad operations on underserved communities, while also supporting the RTA's proposed North/South commuter rail service. The elimination of at-grade crossings will improve safety for pedestrians, cyclists, and motorists which supports USDOT's mission of Vision Zero.

The City of The Village is pleased to support ODOT's RCE grant application for the Project. Thank you for your consideration of this important project and please don't hesitate to contact my office with any questions.

Sincerely,

Dave Slezcickey
City Manager

September 6, 2024

The Honorable Amit Bose
Administrator
Federal Railroad Administration
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Administrator Bose:

On behalf of the Greater Oklahoma City Chamber, a large regional economic development organization, I am pleased to express our support for the Oklahoma Department of Transportation's (ODOT) request for FY24 Railroad Crossing Elimination (RCE) program funding. This RCE request is being pursued to specifically support the "Prioritizing Crossings to Save Lives in Central Oklahoma Project".

This critical planning project will enable completion of a comprehensive, large-scale master planning effort evaluating 52 at-grade rail crossings within the urban footprint serviced by the Regional Transportation Authority of Central Oklahoma (RTA). The RTA, in partnership with BNSF and the cities of Edmond, Oklahoma City, and Norman, seeks to use 37 miles of the existing BNSF freight network through the Oklahoma City metropolitan area for a proposed commuter north-south commuter rail service.

Due to an unfortunate history of incidents at the at-grade crossings within the RTA's service area, this project seeks to develop a prioritization matrix. This matrix would identify grade-separation, safety improvements, and closure projects that provide optimal economic development and public safety benefits. This project will lead to the elimination of highway-rail grade crossings, thus reducing the impacts of freight and railroad operations on underserved communities, while also supporting the RTA's proposed commuter rail service.

The Chamber is pleased to support ODOT's RCE grant application. Thank you for your consideration of this important project and please do not hesitate to contact us if we can be of assistance.

Sincerely,



Christy Gillenwater, President and CEO



September 5, 2024

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

Dear Administrator Bose,

The Norman Chamber of Commerce supports the Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT)'s request for FY24 Railroad Crossing Elimination (RCE) Program funding to support the Prioritizing Crossings to Save Lives in Central Oklahoma Project (Project).

This critical planning project will complete a comprehensive master planning effort evaluating 52 at-grade crossings within the urban areas serviced by the Regional Transportation Authority of Central Oklahoma (RTA). The RTA, in partnership with BNSF and the cities of Norman, Oklahoma City, and Edmond, seeks to use 37 miles of the existing BNSF freight network through Oklahoma City for the proposed North/South commuter rail service. Due to a history of incidents at the at-grade crossings within the RTA's service area, this Project seeks to develop a prioritization matrix identifying grade-separation, safety improvements, and closure projects that provide the greatest benefits to disadvantaged communities, safety, emissions, accessibility to emergency services, community connectivity, and good jobs.

The Project will lead to the elimination of highway-rail grade crossings, thus reducing the impacts of freight and railroad operations on underserved communities, while also supporting the RTA's proposed North/South commuter rail service. The elimination of at-grade crossings will improve safety for pedestrians, cyclists, and motorists which supports USDOT's mission of Vision Zero.

The Norman Chamber of Commerce is pleased to support ODOT's RCE grant application for the Project. Thank you for your consideration of this important project and please don't hesitate to contact my office with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Scott C. Martin".

Scott C. Martin
President and CEO
Norman Chamber of Commerce



EDMOND

AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

September 9, 2024

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

Dear Administrator Bose,

The Edmond Area Chamber of Commerce supports the Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT)'s request for FY24 Railroad Crossing Elimination (RCE) Program funding to support the Prioritizing Crossings to Save Lives in Central Oklahoma Project (Project).

This critical planning project will complete a comprehensive master planning effort evaluating 52 at-grade crossings within the urban areas serviced by the Regional Transportation Authority of Central Oklahoma (RTA). The RTA, in partnership with BNSF and the cities of Edmond, Oklahoma City, and Norman, seeks to use 37 miles of the existing BNSF freight network through Oklahoma City for the proposed North/South commuter rail service. Due to a history of incidents at the at-grade crossings within the RTA's service area, this Project seeks to develop a prioritization matrix identifying grade-separation, safety improvements, and closure projects that provide the greatest benefits to disadvantaged communities, safety, emissions, accessibility to emergency services, community connectivity, and good jobs.

The Project will lead to the elimination of highway-rail grade crossings, thus reducing the impacts of freight and railroad operations on underserved communities, while also supporting the RTA's proposed North/South commuter rail service. The elimination of at-grade crossings will improve safety for pedestrians, cyclists, and motorists which supports USDOT's mission of Vision Zero.

The Edmond Area Chamber of Commerce is pleased to support ODOT's RCE grant application for the Project. Thank you for your consideration of this important project and please don't hesitate to contact my office with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sherry Jordan".

Sherry Jordan, CEO