



Dennis J. Newman  
Executive Vice President, Planning & Asset Development

July 9, 2021

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

**Re: USDOT's FY21 RAISE Grant Application - SH-37 BNSF Railroad Crossing Project (OK)**

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

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 to obtain funding for the ***SH-37 BNSF Railroad Crossing Project*** under the U.S. Department of Transportation's (USDOT) FY21 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) discretionary grant program. Amtrak's State-Supported *Heartland Flyer* service will benefit from the safety improvement.

The project scope consists of safety improvements to a railroad crossing in the City of Moore, including a grade separation of the BNSF Railway (BNSF) railroad tracks at State Highway-37 (SH-37). Improvements include the construction of a new two-track railroad bridge with room for a future third track over SH-37. The existing SH-37 roadway will be reconstructed as a four-lane curb and gutter section, and retaining walls will be constructed north and south of SH-37. A raised median between eastbound and westbound lanes will also be added to the grade-separated roadway as well as 10-foot multimodal shared-use concrete paths on both sides. A pedestrian bridge will be built over the roadway, providing a new north-south pedestrian connection that will tie into the trail network of the adjacent Central Park and the soon-to-be-constructed Old Town Park. To accommodate drainage, a pump station will be built on a permanent easement provided in-kind by BNSF.

If applicable, it is Amtrak's expectation that, prior to the obligation of grant funds for this project, ODOT, BNSF, the City of Moore and Amtrak and other stakeholders will discuss resource requirements and Amtrak's ability to adequately support the project, and subsequently enter into an agreement setting forth our roles and responsibilities with respect to the project, with terms acceptable to Amtrak.

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The advancement of an operational safety infrastructure project like this will contribute to the economic competitiveness of the region.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D.J. Newman".

Dennis J. Newman  
*Executive Vice President, Planning & Asset Development*

cc: Jared Schwennesen, P.E., ODOT, Rail Program Division Manager, [jschwennesen@odot.org](mailto:jschwennesen@odot.org)