



Aaron Hegeman
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The Honorable Raymond H. LaHood
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave. SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary LaHood:

This letter conveys BNSF's position on the State of Oklahoma's application for the second round of TIGER funding for the Claremore Grade Separation. The City of Claremore is bisected by an active BNSF freight line (average of 25 trains daily) which also intersects the Union Pacific Railroad (average of 17 trains daily). Trains approaching this rail crossing must wait to receive a signal to proceed across the diamond. Wait times vary, and consequently trains may tie up at-grade crossings, generating congestion and increased emissions.

The project would elevate the BNSF track through the city, thus resulting in the elimination of five at-grade crossings (including three designated highways and Claremore's Main Street) as well as the crossing with the UP Railroad. The elimination of at-grade crossings and a railroad crossing diamond would have a positive impact on pedestrian, auto, truck and train flows.

BNSF would like to offer its support of this application, and pending satisfactory review of federal funding requirements, final engineering, impacts to operations, financial effects, and negotiation of definitive agreements will be prepared to move forward.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Aaron Hegeman", written in a cursive style.

Aaron Hegeman
Director, Public Private Partnerships