

City of Shawnee

Mayor  
LINDA PETERSON



**The City of Shawnee**

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**Commissioners**

PAM STEPHENS  
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JOHN WINTERRINGER  
CARL HOIT

June 11, 2009

U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave SE  
Washington, DC 20590

To Whom It May Concern:

The City of Shawnee, Oklahoma is in support of the TIGER grant application submitted by the Arkansas-Oklahoma Railroad for various rehabilitation projects needed for the 40 miles of railroad between Shawnee and Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

Heavy flooding along the North Canadian River has caused severe erosion along the trackage and bridge crossings and is destroying valuable agriculture land. This river is threatening the rail service to Shawnee in addition to other resources in the immediate area.

If action is not taken soon, it will affect the livelihood of thousands of our citizens along with the economy of many of our major industries. The continual erosion could lead not only to the permanent loss of hundreds, if not thousands, of well-paying Pottawatomie county jobs.

Due to the current condition of the rail infrastructure, Shawnee has not qualified for eight major projects that might have otherwise come to the Shawnee area. These projects could have allowed for over \$110 million in new capital investment in our city/county and the creation of an additional \$153 million in yearly payroll. The affect of even one of these projects would have had a remarkable impact on the city/county economy.

Shawnee is poised to grow and create prosperity for it citizens, if we are able to maintain and provide passable rail service to our existing and new prospects. Please consider the TIGER Grant Application submitted by the Arkansas-Oklahoma Railroad for the rehabilitation projects for the 40 miles of railroad between Shawnee and Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

Respectfully submitted.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Linda Peterson'.

Linda Peterson  
Mayor, City of Shawnee, Oklahoma

Cc: Randy Smith, SEDF Board Chairman  
Tim Burg, SEDF Director  
Brian McDougal