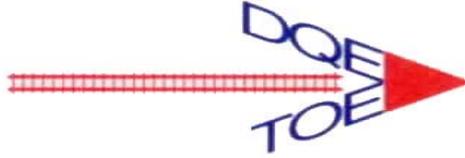


**De Queen & Eastern Railroad LLC
Texas, Oklahoma & Eastern Railroad LLC**
412 East Lockesburg St.
De Queen, Arkansas 71832



October 13, 2011

The Honorable Ray LaHood, Secretary of Transportation

**Office of the Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590**

**Re: Improved U.S. 70 with Freight Railway Underpass, Valliant, Oklahoma
TIGER III Grant Application from Oklahoma Department of Transportation**

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I am writing this letter pursuant to the above referenced project.

A grade separation at Valliant, Oklahoma, (Hwy 70 and the Texas, Oklahoma & Eastern Railroad), would benefit the public and the railroad immensely, not only in dollars saved, but in total safety to the public sector.

With the current vehicle traffic volume and rail traffic operating over this specific crossing, our costs to maintain a safe and adequate surface are estimated to be \$41,140 over the next 24 months. This will include a rebuild of both crossings surfaces. This does not include the mandated inspection/upgrades to the electronic devices associated with this crossing arms or the replacement of the crossing arms that are damaged/destroyed by the trucks that move over the crossing when the arms are in motion. Cost to do these types of repairs is at \$2000 YTD.

When train traffic is moving over Highway 70 crossing, (especially at the Valliant IP Paper Mill shift change), traffic is backed up to the point of causing issues with surrounding businesses. There is also a concern for any emergency response vehicles being able to move quickly when the traffic is backed up.

The removal of this particular crossing will not only save the railroad money and reduce our liability but it will better protect the public and make Highway 70 a safe, efficient thoroughfare.

**Tom Williams
General Manager
DeQueen & Eastern Railroad
Texas, Oklahoma & Eastern Railroad**

870-642-1326