



A voluntary association of local governments serving Creek, Osage, Rogers, Tulsa and Wagoner Counties  
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September 22, 2009

Gary Ridley  
Oklahoma Secretary of Transportation  
200 NE 21st Street  
Oklahoma City, OK 73105-3204

Dear Secretary Ridley,

**Subject: High Speed Rail Application**

On August 11, 2005, the INCOG Board of Directors, as the Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Tulsa metropolitan area, adopted the *Destination 2030* Long Range Transportation Plan. The plan specifically included a section in the Public Transportation chapter addressing the need for high speed passenger rail service from Oklahoma City to Tulsa and on to Kansas City or Saint Louis.

There are several reasons this recommendation was included in the transportation plan including the increasing congestion on the Turner Turnpike due to the substantial commuter and business travel between the two metro areas, the safety hazard of mixing increasing volumes of long-haul truck traffic and personal vehicle traffic on a four-lane expressway, the alternate redundancy rail service in the Turner Turnpike corridor would provide when there are incidents on the turnpike as well as the security benefits it would provide, and the environmental and social impact providing the alternate transportation will have by reducing dependency on the single-occupant automobile.

Further, since the adoption of the *Destination 2030* plan, the region has explored the potential for regional rail transit and found that high speed intercity passenger rail could positively impact regional rail transit by increasing ridership approximately 25%, according to a feasibility study of the Broken Arrow corridor completed in April 2007.

Finally, INCOG has encouraged the Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT) at every opportunity to pursue development of rail service from Tulsa to Oklahoma City and to Kansas City to connect northeast Oklahoma to the Amtrak passenger rail system serving both the western and eastern United States.

We commend ODOT for the foresight to include Tulsa in the South Central High Speed Rail designation, and we are encouraged by the initiative and effort ODOT is putting forth in pursuit of this application for High Speed Rail Stimulus funding. INCOG is ready to provide all the support we are able toward the completion of this project.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Rich Brierre".

Rich Brierre  
INCOG Executive Director