



Stephen J. Gardner
Vice President, Policy and Development

October 2, 2009

Mr. Joseph C. Szabo
Administrator
Federal Railroad Administration
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Mr. Szabo:

The National Railroad Passenger Corporation (Amtrak) would like to take this opportunity to express its conceptual support for the Oklahoma Department of Transportation's High Speed Intercity Passenger Rail Project. The project is being submitted by the state as a ("HSIPR") Corridor Development "Track 2" application under the provisions of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act ("ARRA").

The ARRA provides a unique opportunity to advance projects that are integral to realizing the Obama Administration's vision for high speed intercity passenger rail service. Based on the information made available to us by the State of Oklahoma regarding this corridor development project's eligibility, and subject to the development of such project-specific agreements as FRA may require, Amtrak conceptually supports the Oklahoma High Speed Rail Initiative Project, and its goal of providing expanded and enhanced regional rail passenger service under the HSIPR program.

The proposed program contemplated under the Oklahoma High Speed Rail Initiative encompasses, among other things, the extension of existing service to Tulsa, infrastructure improvements which will increase service reliability and performance, and provide for the expansion of operational capacity required for further development of emerging high speed rail service.

However, due to the time constraints associated with the filing schedule for first round ARRA applications, Amtrak has not had an opportunity to adequately validate some or all of the elements of the State's proposed Service Development Plan, and/or estimates or supplemental information presented in the State's application which may have a significant impact on the anticipated service outcomes included in the State's Application(s). Accordingly, upon the submittal of the application, Amtrak and the State will further review the State's Service Development Plan, and/or other supplementary or statistical information, and the State will update this plan or related information, as necessary.

The advancement of projects such as the Oklahoma High Speed Rail Initiative with ARRA funds will help develop high speed and quality intercity passenger rail service in our nation. We appreciate your review of this project and look forward to the opportunities to improve intercity passenger rail that the HSIPR program will provide.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Stephen J. Gardner", written over a circular blue stamp or seal.

Stephen J. Gardner
Vice President, Policy and Development

cc: Secretary of Transportation, State of Oklahoma