



September 10, 2009

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

Re: Support of the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Separation Project in Claremore, Oklahoma

Dear Secretary Ridley,

I am writing this letter in support of the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Separation Project. As the Mayor of the City of Claremore, the Council and I would like to express our support and the importance of this project.

The City of Claremore is located in the middle of two major freight railroad companies, the Burlington Northern Santa Fe and the Union Pacific. Both railroads provide connection service to the Class I Nationwide Rail Network and Claremore sits at its crossroads.

Three main state highways, SH66, SH20, and SH88 run through out the city. These state highways provide connections to the interstate and other surrounding communities. Approximately 53 trains on an average day and 19 railroad and highway/street grade crossings contributes to daily traffic delays and avert reliable access for all emergency vehicles. The high volume of trains and the diamond crossing of the BNSF and UPRR, high-speed travel is not possible resulting in lingering trains.

The BNSF also has an industry track located in the middle of the city. This track allows two businesses to receive goods, further delaying emergency vehicles and citizens.

The limited mobility on a daily basis is of great concern for automobiles, school buses, pedestrians, and bicyclists. Our community is extremely energetic with public school activities, private school activities, university activities, Veterans, old Highway 66, festivals and other social organizations. The congestion from the railroad not only hampers these activities but also endangers the general public in and around the city participating in several activities.

Please consider our support in your evaluation of this project. This project is truly needed for the safety of our community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brant Shallenburger". The signature is stylized and written in a cursive-like font.

Brant Shallenburger
Mayor, City of Claremore