



CLAREMORE FIRE DEPARTMENT

121 N. Weenonah Ave. • Claremore, OK 74017 • (918) 341-1477

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

Date: September 4, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Ridley,

I am writing you in reference to the BNSR Separation Project and the safety to our citizens and emergency responders that currently exist.

We can just imagine the disaster waiting to happen especially within the area where the Burlington Northern and Union Pacific tracks cross each other, with the chemicals carried on these rails, commercial tankers having to cross the tracks on Blue Starr traveling to the industrial parks and Blue Starr Drive and J.M. Davis being a main route to Claremore Regional Hospital for the ambulance service, this causes me great concern and has for some time.

Due to the short amount of space from the traffic lights at Blue Starr Drive and J.M. Davis and the Burlington Northern tracks, this has caused past train/vehicle accidents that would there have been an overpass or underpass, this would not be the cause of these accidents. With the amount of traffic in our city, especially during the weekdays and the current location and crossings of the Burlington Northern tracks, this poses a great concern for our fire trucks and emergency response vehicles to have a complete response of personnel and resources to all hazards responses.

In closing, I very much appreciate your work on this project, your expertise and consideration for the safety of all. As Fire Chief and Emergency Management Director for this great City, I as well, strive to make this the safest community for all that reside or pass through.

Should you have any questions of me, please don't hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,

Mark A. Dowler, Fire Chief
City of Claremore