

City of Thomas

March 15, 2012

The Honorable Ray LaHood,
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

RE: FY 2012 TIGER Grant Application
Westhom Spur State-Owned Rail Improvement Project
(Custer County, Oklahoma)

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I am the recently elected Mayor of Thomas, Oklahoma, a town of approximately 1,500 residents located in Custer County. The reason for my writing you is to voice my strong support for the FY 2012 TIGER grant application that I have just become aware of, to be submitted by the Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT) which would upgrade a rail line near Thomas.

The Thomas City Council and I all give our full support to this project and believe it will have not only immediate but also many long-term benefits to Thomas and the surrounding communities. Transportation for businesses and residents is vital to our area and we definitely support efforts to improve rail and highway transportation. Maximizing use of our infrastructure will certainly be a selling point as we seek to retain existing and attract new businesses. Additionally, many of our residents work in the oil and gas industry or are indirectly impacted by it so we without question want to continue to partner with this economic sector.

It is our hope you will approve ODOT's application.

Sincerely,



Jeff Gose,
Mayor