

GARY M. RIDLEY  
Secretary of Transportation



MARY FALLIN  
Governor

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

October 27, 2011

The Honorable Ray LaHood  
Secretary of Transportation  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Re: *Improved US-70 with Railroad Grade Separation Project, City of Valliant, McCurtain County, Oklahoma, TIGER III Grant Application from ODOT/State of Oklahoma*

Dear Secretary LaHood:

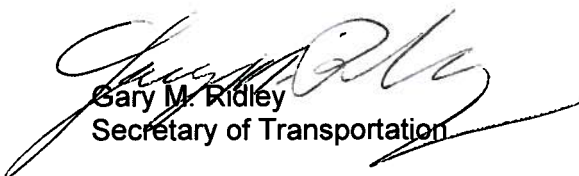
Please accept this letter as an indication of the Oklahoma Department of Transportation's support for the project cited above. This project has evolved over a number of years and has been thoroughly vetted by the people and businesses of southeastern Oklahoma. The railroad grade separation and related improvements to US 70 represent a multimodal project that will benefit the local, regional, and national economy.

The rail-highway project location is in one of the most economically distressed areas in the State of Oklahoma. Providing TIGER III funding for one-fifth of this project will mean that the improvement can proceed and benefits will accrue to local residents and the area economy. Further, improvement on this segment of the National Highway System will provide for more efficient cross-country movement of goods and people on a route that lies between I-40 and I-20.

The project will benefit a small shortline railroad and its customers, as well as travelers who incur costly "wait time" while trains cross the main highway in southeast Oklahoma. Anticipated benefits to this project include: improved travel time, induced economic activity, safety for residents, safer travel, more efficient truck and train transport, and improved connectivity with other highways and with adjacent segments US 70.

The *Improved US 70 with Railroad Grade Separation* project is critical to the transportation system and to economic development for the region and for the State of Oklahoma. We appreciate the opportunity to submit this application and we respectfully request that you give it your very careful consideration.

Sincerely,

  
Gary M. Ridley  
Secretary of Transportation