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April 29, 2016

The Honorable Anthony Foxx, Secretary of Transportation  
Office of the Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington D.C.

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Please accept this letter as support for the rural railroad/highway crossings signal upgrades the Oklahoma Department of Transportation is requesting in this Tiger VIII application.

This grant will be used to modernize and improve rail safety infrastructure at railroad crossings in the rural Oklahoma areas that either experience high volumes of train traffic or intersect with highway routes that serve Native American health service centers, community centers and schools.

In light of the increases in both railroad and motor vehicle traffics ODOT is attempting with this application to improve the safety of our most critical railroad/road crossings while improving the quality of life for all Oklahomans.

This application for railroad/highway crossing safety upgrades is a positive step for Oklahoma and positive step for the nation. Increased transportation of rail traffic is important to the growth of our nation's economy but protecting our traveling public is paramount.

I appreciate the opportunity to share with you the importance of this project to the state of Oklahoma, and I urge your expeditious approval of the Oklahoma Department of Transportation's application for Tiger VIII funding.

Sincerely,

Jeff Van Schaick  
Assistant Vice President – Government Affairs  
South Kansas & Oklahoma Railroad

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