



OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

J. Michael Patterson, Executive Director

200 N.E. 21st Street
Oklahoma City, OK 73105-3204
(405) 522-1800

April 15, 2016

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

RE: Support Letter for Oklahoma Department of Transportation's TIGER 2016 Grant Application for the Oklahoma Tribal Rural Railroad Crossing Safety Improvement Project.

Dear Secretary Foxx,

The Oklahoma Department of Transportation makes railroad crossing safety a high priority, as demonstrated by the Department's efforts since 2014 to improve railroad/highway grade crossings across the state. In line with Federal Railroad Administrator's Feinberg's efforts to improve railroad/highway grade crossing safety, we are applying to improve 27 rural railroad crossings that impact our state and tribal citizens here in Oklahoma.

As our tribal neighbors pursue their economic growth through commercial, industrial, infrastructure and community resource development, we are working to make sure the railroad/highway grade crossings in their tribal jurisdictions are as safe as possible. The upgrade of signal flashers, addition of gates and improved crossing surfaces described in our TIGER 2016 Grant application will help our railroads operate more efficiently and safely as well as allow our citizens to move safely across crossings in pursuit of personal and business ventures.

The 27 rural crossing upgrades described in our TIGER 2016 Grant application specifically will improve access to our tribal medical centers, community centers, schools, and business activities. These projects are a positive step forward for Oklahoma and a positive step forward for the nation.

I appreciate the opportunity to share with you the importance of these projects to Oklahoma and our Tribal partners, and I urge your expeditious approval of our application for TIGER 2016 funding for the Oklahoma Tribal Rural Railroad Crossing Safety Improvement Project.

Sincerely,



J. Michael Patterson
Executive Director

"The mission of the Oklahoma Department of Transportation is to provide a safe, economical, and effective transportation network for the people, commerce and communities of Oklahoma."

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER