



APPENDIX A

Letters of Support



French Thompson
General Director
Public Infrastructure & Investments

BNSF Railway Company
P. O. Box 961502
Fort Worth, TX 76161-0052

2600 Lou Menk Drive
Fort Worth, Texas 76131-2830
(817) 352-1549

French.Thompson@BNSF.com

September 23, 2024

Amit Bose, Administrator
Federal Railroad Administration
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Subject: Letter of Support – Mannford Railroad Crossing Planning Project to Improve
Basin Road Connection

Dear Administrator Bose,

BNSF Railway supports efforts by the Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT) to secure federal discretionary funding under the 2024 Railroad Crossing Elimination (RCE) grant for the Mannford Railroad Crossing Planning Project to Improve Basin Road Connection project. Funding for this project will advance planning efforts towards a crossing review in Mannford, Oklahoma on the BNSF Avarad Subdivision.

This project will study the Basin Road railroad crossing (DOT No. 673651V) north of State Highway 51 in Mannford, Oklahoma. This is a choke point for all vehicular traffic accessing the peninsula on the west side of Keystone Lake, just outside of Mannford, Oklahoma. Trains stopped at this location can cause lengthy delays for travelers without an alternate route. This project will advance planning activities to determine a safe, economic, and community centered approach to improving the crossing operation for both vehicular and railroad traffic. This project will help to improve connectivity and mobility, safety, quality of life, rail resiliency, and reduce emissions in this disadvantaged rural Oklahoma community.

BNSF values our working relationship with ODOT and is prepared to work with all involved public agencies on further development of this project, subject to satisfactory review of final engineering and entering into definitive agreements as may be required by BNSF or other project stakeholders.

BNSF appreciates your thorough review of this application and looks forward to continuing its relationship with ODOT through this important project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "French Thompson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

French Thompson
General Director – Public Infrastructure & Investments

JAMES LANKFORD
OKLAHOMA

316 HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510
(202) 224-5754

United States Senate

COMMITTEES:
FINANCE
ETHICS
INTELLIGENCE
HOMELAND SECURITY AND
GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

September 20, 2024

The Honorable Amit Bose
Administrator of the Federal Railroad Administration
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Administrator Bose:

I am pleased to write this letter in support of the Oklahoma Department of Transportation's (ODOT) application for funding through the Railroad Crossing Elimination (RCE) grant program. The *Mannford Railroad Crossing Planning Project to Improve Basin Road Connection*, if awarded, will study alternatives to improve connectivity and mobility, safety, quality of life, and resiliency in rural Oklahoma.

The Basin Road railroad crossing north of SH-51 in Mannford is a single choke point for all vehicular traffic accessing the peninsula on the west side of Keystone Lake. Trains stopped at this location can cause lengthy delays for travelers without an alternate route. This Planning Project consists of preliminary design activities to determine a safe, economic, and community centered approach to improving the crossing operation for both vehicular and railroad traffic.

The proposed project will allow for the progression of a needed project in Northeast Oklahoma. It is vital that our nation invest in railroad infrastructure, particularly with at-grade crossings that can present safety and mobility challenges. The Mannford planning project seeks to address these issues by examining alternatives and conducting the necessary preliminary activities to improve the railroad crossing. A federal investment, combined with local contributions, will help increase safety and connectivity for residents in Mannford and the region.

Thank you in advance for your strong consideration of ODOT's application for funding through the Railroad Crossing Elimination (RCE) grant program. Please contact my office should you need any further assistance as you consider this important proposal.

In God We Trust,



James Lankford
United States Senator for Oklahoma

Kyle Hilbert
Speaker Pro Tempore
State Representative
House District 29

State Capitol Room 406
2300 N. Lincoln Blvd.
Oklahoma City, OK 73105
Office 405-557-7353
kyle.hilbert@okhouse.gov



*House of Representatives
State of Oklahoma*

September 17, 2024

Amit Bose, Administrator
U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Railroad Administration
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington DC, 20590

Subject: Letter of Support – Mannford Railroad Crossing Planning Project to Improve Basin Road Connection

Dear Administrator Bose,

I am writing in strong support of the Oklahoma Department of Transportation application to secure federal discretionary planning funding under the 2023/2024 Railroad Crossing Elimination (RCE) grant for the Mannford Railroad Crossing Planning Project to Improve Basin Road Connection. If awarded, this project will study alternatives to improve connectivity and mobility, safety, quality of life, resiliency, and reduce emissions in rural Oklahoma.

The Basin Road railroad crossing north of SH-51 in Mannford is a single choke point for all vehicular traffic accessing the peninsula on the west side of Keystone Lake. Trains stopped at this location can cause lengthy delays for travelers without an alternate route. This Planning Project consists of preliminary design activities to determine a safe, economic, and community centered approach to improving the crossing operation for both vehicular and railroad traffic.

Thank you in advance for your strong consideration of ODOT's application for the Railroad Crossing Elimination Program. Please contact our offices if you need any further assistance as you consider this important proposal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kyle Hilbert".

Kyle Hilbert
Oklahoma House of Representatives
Speaker Pro Tempore
House District 29

Board of County Commissioners

COMMISSIONERS

1st District
NEWT STEPHENS
2nd District
LEON WARNER
3rd District
JARROD WHITEHOUSE



Collins Building
317 East Lee, Suite #103
Sapulpa, Oklahoma 74066
(918) 224-0278
FAX (918)227-6308

CREEK COUNTY

September 16, 2024

Amit Bose, Administrator
U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Railroad Administration
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington DC, 20590

Subject: Letter of Support – Mannford Railroad Crossing Planning Project to Improve Basin Road Connection


Dear Administrator Bose,

I am writing in support of the Oklahoma Department of Transportation application to secure federal discretionary planning funding under the 2023/2024 Railroad Crossing Elimination (RCE) grant for the Mannford Railroad Crossing Planning Project to Improve the Basin Road Connection. If awarded, this project will study alternatives to improve connectivity and mobility, safety, quality of life, resiliency, and reduced emissions in rural Oklahoma.

The Basin Road railroad crossing north of SH-51 in Mannford is a single choke point for all vehicular traffic accessing the peninsula on the west side of Keystone Lake, this road carries over 10,000 cars a day. Basin Road traffic has backed up for over a mile when the Railroad has this single point of exit blocked. Trains stopped at this location cause lengthy delays for travelers without an alternate route. This Planning Project consists of preliminary design activities to determine a safe, economic, and community centered approach to improving the crossing operation for both vehicular and railroad traffic.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of ODOT's application for the Railroad Crossing Elimination Program. Please contact our offices if you need any further assistance as you consider this important and necessary proposal.

Sincerely,


Leon Warner
Creek County Commissioner
District #2



CITY of MANNFORD, OK
P.O. Box 327 / 201 Bill Phelps Blvd.
Mannford, OK 74044
Ph. (918) 865-4314

September 16, 2024

Amit Bose, Administrator
U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Railroad Administration
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington DC, 20590

Subject: Letter of Support – Mannford Railroad Crossing Planning Project to Improve Basin Road Connection


Dear Administrator Bose,

I am writing in strong support of the Oklahoma Department of Transportation application to secure federal discretionary planning funding under the 2023/2024 Railroad Crossing Elimination (RCE) grant for the Mannford Railroad Crossing Planning Project to Improve Basin Road Connection. If awarded, this project will study alternatives to improve connectivity and mobility, safety, quality of life, resiliency, and reduce emissions in rural Oklahoma.

The Basin Road railroad crossing north of SH-51 in Mannford is a single choke point for all vehicular traffic accessing the peninsula on the west side of Keystone Lake. Trains stopped at this location can cause lengthy delays for travelers without an alternate route. This Planning Project consists of preliminary design activities to determine a safe, economic, and community centered approach to improving the crossing operation for both vehicular and railroad traffic.

Thank you in advance for your strong consideration of ODOT's application for the Railroad Crossing Elimination Program. Please contact our offices if you need any further assistance as you consider this important proposal.

Sincerely,


Gerald Haury
Town Administrator

City of Mannford

on Keystone Lake

Amit Bose, Administrator
U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Railroad Administration
1200 New Jersey, Avenue SE
Washington DC, 20590

Subject: Letter of Support-Mannford Railroad Crossing Planning Project to Improve Basin Road Connection

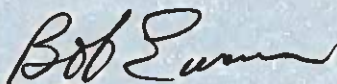
Dear Administrator Bose,

I am writing in strong support of the Oklahoma Department of Transportation application to secure federal discretionary planning funding under the 2023/2024 Railroad Crossing Elimination (RCE) grant for the Mannford Railroad Planning Project to Improve Basin Road Connection. If awarded, this project will study alternatives to improve connection and mobility safety, and quality of life, resiliency, and reduce emissions in rural Oklahoma.

Basin Road crossing north of SH-51 in Mannford is a single choke point for all vehicular traffic accessing the peninsula on the west side of Keystone Lake. Trains stopped at this location can cause lengthy delays for travelers without an alternate route. This planning project consists of improving the crossing operation for both vehicular and railroad traffic.

Thank you in advance for your strong consideration of ODOT's application for the Railroad Crossing Elimination Program. Please contact our offices if you need and further assistance as you consider this important proposal.

Sincerely,
Bob Evans



Fire Chief
Mannford Fire Department

P.O. Box 327 / 201 Bill Phelps Blvd., Mannford, OK 74044-0327
Ph: 918/865-4314 Fax 918/865-5270

City of Mannford

on Keystone Lake

Amit Bose, Administrator
U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Railroad Administration
1200 New Jersey, Avenue SE
Washington DC, 20590

Subject: Letter of Support-Mannford Railroad Crossing Planning Project to Improve Basin Road Connection

Dear Administrator Bose,

I am writing in strong support of the Oklahoma Department of Transportation application to secure federal discretionary planning funding under the 2023/2024 Railroad Crossing Elimination (RCE) grant for the Mannford Railroad Planning Project to Improve Basin Road Connection. If awarded, this project will study alternatives to improve connection and mobility safety, and quality of life, resiliency, and reduce emissions in rural Oklahoma.

Basin Road crossing north of SH-51 in Mannford is a single choke point for all vehicular traffic accessing the peninsula on the west side of Keystone Lake. Trains stopped at this location can cause lengthy delays for travelers without an alternate route. This planning project consists of improving the crossing operation for both vehicular and railroad traffic.

Thank you in advance for your strong consideration of ODOT's application for the Railroad Crossing Elimination Program. Please contact our offices if you need and further assistance as you consider this important proposal.

Sincerely,



Jerry L. Ridley
Chief of Police
Mannford Police Department



MANNFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Moment by moment, day by day, Mannford Public Schools is making choices and making weather which affords our students the opportunity to be raised up to be men and women of character, diligence, and excellence – citizens in the finest sense of the word.

136 Evans Avenue * Mannford, OK 74044 * (918) 865-4062 * Fax (918) 865-3405
Kelly Spradlin, Superintendent * spradlink@mannford.k12.ok.us

September 17, 2024

Amit Bose, Administrator
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Subject: Letter of Support for the Mannford Railroad Crossing Planning Project to Improve Basin Road Connection

Dear Administrator Bose,

On behalf of Mannford Public Schools, I am writing to express our support for the Mannford Railroad Crossing Planning Project to Improve Basin Road Connection, which is seeking funding through the U.S. Department of Transportation's Railroad Crossing Elimination Grant for Fiscal Year 2023/2024. This project is essential to improving the safety and accessibility of our community, particularly for the students, families, and staff of Mannford Public Schools.

Mannford Public Schools currently operates five bus routes that utilize Basin Road daily, each carrying approximately 50 students. The existing railroad crossing near this route has been a significant concern due to lengthy delays caused by train traffic and the potential safety hazards it poses. The interruptions not only delay our buses but can also create life-threatening situations for our residents when First Responders are unable to reach emergencies due to the railroad crossing being blocked, sometimes for over an hour.

The Mannford Railroad Crossing Planning Project is a crucial step toward eliminating the issues at the Basin Road Crossing, significantly improving safety and traffic flow. This will directly benefit our district by reducing delays and ensuring a safer commute for our students, staff, and families. With over 250 students regularly affected by this crossing, the need for a solution is urgent.

We believe that this project aligns with the goals of the Railroad Crossing Elimination Program, and its success will have a lasting impact on both our school district and the broader Mannford community. We urge your support for this vital planning initiative and look forward to the improvements it will bring to our region.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



CITY of MANNFORD, OK
P.O. Box 327 / 201 Bill Phelps Blvd.
Mannford, OK 74044
Ph. (918) 865-4314

September 23, 2024

Mr. Flynn,

I am writing in regard to the Basin railroad crossing project. The area north of the railroad tracks just north of the intersection of Basin and Highway 51 houses a very large population of our ambulance district. We have had numerous delays in response time due to a train going through town and even worse, stopped at the crossing. Recently, we had two medical emergencies that we were not able to respond to in a timely manner due to this issue. This has been a chronic issue that costs the citizens of Mannford quality care and safety. Aside from the major safety concerns brought about by the "one way in and one way out" that is the Basin area, the amount of traffic that travels over that crossing on a daily basis is astounding. Roughly 10,000 vehicle crossings are made over those tracks in a single day. People have consistently been forced to be late for work, appointments, and getting their children to school due to this crossing. Keystone Marina, the largest camping and docking site for Keystone Lake in Mannford, is also north of the crossing. This not only effects the citizens of Mannford, but also people from out of town who are traveling to the lake. The influx of traffic for the lake is a very big asset to the City of Mannford. Obviously, there are numerous concerns regarding this issue that will hopefully be addressed and help us keep our citizens and visitors safe . If any more information is needed, please feel free to contact me.

Thank you,

Shane Cox, NRP

Director

Mannford Ambulance Service

Work (918) 865-2666

Cell (918) 625-4973



Amit Bose, Administrator
U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Railroad Administration
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington DC, 20590

Subject: Letter of Support – Mannford Railroad Crossing Planning Project to Improve Basin Road Connection

Dear Administrator Bose,

I am writing in strong support of the Oklahoma Department of Transportation application to secure federal discretionary planning funding under the 2023/2024 Railroad Crossing Elimination (RCE) grant for the Mannford Railroad Crossing Planning Project to Improve Basin Road Connection. If awarded, this project will study alternatives to improve connectivity and mobility, public safety, quality of life, resiliency, and reduce emissions in rural Oklahoma.

The Basin Road railroad crossing north of SH-51 in Mannford is a single choke point for all vehicular traffic accessing homes and popular recreational destinations on the peninsula on the west side of Keystone Lake. Trains stopped at this location often cause lengthy delays for residents and travelers since there are simply no alternate routes. This Planning Project consists of preliminary design activities to determine a safe, economic, and community centered approach to improving the crossing operation for both vehicular and railroad traffic.

Thank you in advance for your strong consideration of ODOT's application for the Railroad Crossing Elimination Program. Please contact our offices if you need any further assistance as you consider this important proposal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rich Brierre", written in a cursive style.

Rich Brierre
Executive Director



APPENDIX B

Letter of Funding Commitment



September 20, 2024

Amit Bose, Administrator
Federal Railroad Administration
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

RE: Mannford Railroad Crossing Planning Project to Improve Basin Road Connection

Dear Administrator Bose,

On behalf of the Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT), I am pleased to present this application for Railroad Crossing Elimination (RCE) Program funds. We take pride in our mission “to provide a safe, economical and effective transportation network for the people, commerce and communities of Oklahoma” and this application has been developed in this spirit.

ODOT is committing \$300,000 in non-federal funds of future eligible project costs as local match for the Mannford Railroad Crossing Planning Project to Improve Basin Road Connection, should it be selected for award of RCE grant funds.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tim J. Gatz".

Tim J. Gatz
Executive Director



APPENDIX C

Data

Summary of Train Delay and Emissions Metrics- Synchro Traffic Modeling

Train Delay Results	Total trains during time period				Daily Total	Yearly Total	Hours Yearly	
	1 train	1 train	7 trains	6 trains				
	Results below per one train event							
	AM	PM	Off Peak Day	Off Peak Night				
Total Delay (hr)	26.4	29.4	23.6	5.9	256.4	93586		<----- This daily/yearly total is the total delay for all vehicles at all train events each day/year
Total Delay/Veh (sec)	489.6	493	496.3	391	6802.7	2482986	690	<----- This daily/yearly total is for a single vehicle if it were to get caught at every train event each day/year
Fuel (gal)	8.4	9.3	7.4	2	81.5	29748		<----- This daily/yearly total is the total delay for all vehicles at all train events each day/year
HC Emissions (g)	40	65	46	5	457	166805		<----- This daily/yearly total is the total delay for all vehicles at all train events each day/year
CO Emissions (g)	966	1396	997	165	10331	3770815		<----- This daily/yearly total is the total delay for all vehicles at all train events each day/year
NOx Emissions (g)	75	121	79	16	845	308425		<----- This daily/yearly total is the total delay for all vehicles at all train events each day/year

Assumptions

A 27 minute event starting with a 20 minute train blocks. Allows time for the queue to dissipate
 Train blocks can last from ten minutes to forty five minutes so used an average of twenty minutes

Using publicly available volume information, peak hour, off peak day, and off peak night traffic volumes were estimated and analyzed using Synchro software for potential congestion from a 20 minute rail blockage. Delay and emissions from the software for each condition were averaged per train event, and accumulated to represent a typical days worth of train events. From a typical day, a year's worth of delay and emissions was extrapolated

1 to 2 Mile Trips

