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May 23, 2022

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

BNSF Railway supports the efforts by the Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT) to secure funding through the Rural Surface Transportation Grant (RURAL) application under the Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant (MPDG) opportunity for At-Grade Rail Safety Improvements to Reestablish the Heartland Flyer Northern Extension.

This RURAL grant application will improve safety at 52 at-grade crossing locations by systematically updating the at-grade crossing warning devices to facilitate safe and efficient freight and new passenger rail operations. Additionally, these upgrades will aide in reestablishing passenger rail service north into Kansas. The at-grade railroad safety improvements will include crossings in Oklahoma City (8), Ponca City (9), Guthrie (5), Perry (14), Newkirk (3), Mulhall (2), Orlando (1), Red Rock (4), and Marland (6).

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 funding requirements, final engineering, permitting, 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. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a large, stylized loop followed by a horizontal line that ends in a small, star-like flourish.

French Thompson, III
General Director, Public Infrastructure and Investments