

FRANK D. LUCAS
3RD DISTRICT, OKLAHOMA

2405 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-3603
(202) 225-5565
www.house.gov/lucas

DEPUTY WHIP

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3603

SCIENCE, SPACE, AND
TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

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CONSUMER PROTECTION AND
FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

NATIONAL SECURITY, INTERNATIONAL
DEVELOPMENT, AND MONETARY POLICY

DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

May 18, 2022

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

The Oklahoma Congressional Delegation is pleased to submit this letter in support of the Oklahoma Department of Transportation's (ODOT's) Rural Surface Transportation Grant (RURAL) application under the Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant Opportunity for At-Grade Rail Safety Improvements to Reestablish the Heartland Flyer Northern Extension.

This project 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 aid 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).

The safety enhancements include but are not limited to;

- Improving the smoothness of the crossing surface at all 52 at-grade crossings. A rough surface may contribute to a collision by diverting the road user's attention from the prime tasks of observing the crossing signals and looking for a train.
- Flashing-light signals, which are a fundamental active warning device, at all 52 at-grade crossings. The flashing-light signals consist of two red light units that flash alternately at a rate of 35 to 65 times per minute.
- Audible bells sounds at all 52 at-grade crossings to improve safety for non-motorized road users such as pedestrians and bicyclists.
- Installation of medians at 20 at-grade crossings to eliminate drivers crossing the centerline pavement marking and driving around a gate.

We thank you in advance for your serious consideration of ODOT's application for this RURAL grant. Please contact Max Richards at Max.Richards@mail.house.gov if you need any further assistance as you consider this important project.

Sincerely,



Frank D. Lucas
Member of Congress

DISTRICT OFFICE:

10952 NORTHWEST EXPRESSWAY
SUITE B
YUKON, OK 73099
(405) 373-1958

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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 23, 2022

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I am pleased to submit this letter in support of the Oklahoma Department of Transportation's (ODOT's) application for a Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant (MPDG) for at-grade rail safety improvements from Oklahoma City to the Oklahoma-Kansas border.

This project 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 on the Heartland Flyer 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).

The safety enhancements include:

- Improving the smoothness of the crossing surface at all 52 at-grade crossings.
- Flashing-light signals, which are a fundamental active warning device, at all 52 at-grade crossings.
- Audible bells sounds at all 52 at-grade crossings to improve safety for non-motorized road users such as pedestrians and bicyclists.
- Installation of medians at 20 at-grade crossings to eliminate drivers crossing the centerline pavement marking and driving around a gate.

I thank you in advance for your serious consideration of ODOT's application for this MPDG opportunity. Please contact Victor Sarmiento at victor_sarmiento@inhofe.senate.gov if you need any further assistance as you consider this important project.

Sincerely,



James M. Inhofe
United States Senator