

May 25, 2022

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

RE: MPDG Application for At-Grade Rail Safety Improvements

Dear Secretary,

As an economic development organization representing more than 2,600 employers, the Greater Oklahoma City Chamber is pleased to submit a letter in support of the Oklahoma Department of Transportation's Multimodal Projects Discretionary Grant (MPDG) application. This MPDG grant application is for the following project: **At-Grade Rail Safety Improvements to Reestablish the Heartland Flyer Northern Extension.**

Our organization is a long-standing supporter of expanding passenger rail from Oklahoma City to Newton, KS to connect to the Amtrak national network. We believe the award of MPDG funding to ODOT for key safety improvements at 52 at-grade crossings is vital to achieving this objective. Specifically, grant funding would be used to update warning devices that will help facilitate safe and efficient new passenger rail and freight rail operations in an effective manner.

The safety enhancements include but are not limited to the following: 1) improving the smoothness of the crossing surface; 2) incorporating flashing-light signals, which are a fundamental active warning device; and 3) allowing for audible bell sounds to improve safety for pedestrians and bicyclists.

The Greater Oklahoma City Chamber respectfully urges your support in awarding this funding so these critical transportation improvements may occur, and the northern extension project can benefit from these strategic enhancements.

Thank you for your consideration and leadership on transportation issues facing the nation.

Sincerely,



Roy Williams
President and CEO