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AND INFRASTRUCTURE

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

August 24, 2010

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

Dear Secretary LaHood:

I am writing to express my support for the Tower 55 Multimodal Improvement Project as proposed by the Texas Department of Transportation (TXDOT).

Tower 55 is a critically important freight and passenger rail gateway that has both statewide and regional impacts on the rail system. It is one of the most congested rail intersections in the U.S. affecting the entire supply chain. Eleven major freight and passenger rail lines from across the country converge at Tower 55 into a single, four way at-grade intersection. Even with the recent economic downturn and the drastic reduction in rail volume, Tower 55 has been operating at or above 90% capacity.

As proposed by TXDOT, and in partnership with BNSF Railway, Union Pacific Railroad, Amtrak, the City of Fort Worth, the North Central Texas Council of Governments, and the Fort Worth Transit Authority, the Tower 55 Multimodal Improvement Project will simultaneously address a number of key challenges for the local community, state and surrounding region. It will greatly enhance rail and motorist transportation flows through and around the intersection, improvements which will be felt up and down the affected trade corridors; address community safety concerns; and promote national goals of energy savings and environmental conservation. The project epitomizes a successful public-private partnership, taking a carefully studied approach to achieve the shared long term objectives of all stakeholders in this investment.

I appreciate the opportunity to express my support for this very important project. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Very respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Pete Olson".

Pete Olson
Member of Congress