



PORT CORPUS CHRISTI

August 17, 2010

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

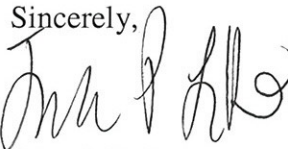
Dear Secretary LaHood:

I would like to express my support for the BNSF grant application to secure USDOT National Infrastructure Investments (TIGER II) grant funding for the Tower 55 rail improvements located near Fort Worth, Texas.

Tower 55 is one the most congested railroad intersections in the United States. Everyday more than 100 freight and passenger trains move through the area transporting critical intermodal goods, agricultural products and industrial and manufactured goods that are essential to the U.S. economy. The proposed improvements will upgrade tracks, enhance signal systems and install two new grade-separated pedestrian crossings near an elementary school and two at-grade road crossings in a residential area. The project will relieve the congestion problem and have a positive effect on communities and businesses. It will provide greater safety for motorists and pedestrians at crossings and bridges. Improving the intersection will reduce traffic delays for railcars and passenger vehicles; thereby, improving the air quality for all. The project will meet freight and passenger rail demand well into the future.

In addition, Tower 55 will stimulate nationwide economic development by providing 700 direct jobs in eight counties considered Economically Distressed Areas. The project offers \$1.1 billion in public benefits or \$27.5 per \$1 federal investment to the public. Rail volume growth will be supported for 20 years.

The Port of Corpus Christi Authority believes this project provides many significant economic, environmental and safety benefits to the region, our state of Texas and the nation. I offer my support to BNSF and ask for your consideration of this project.

Sincerely,

John P. LaRue
Executive Director

JPL/no

