



September 24, 2010

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

SUBJECT: Docket No. DOT-OST-2010-0076
National Infrastructure Investments, Tiger II Discretionary Grant Program

Dear Secretary LaHood:

I am writing to express support for the Texas Department of Transportation's request for Tiger II discretionary funds to help improve rail freight transportation at one of the nation's busiest — and most congested — rail intersections, Tower 55 in downtown Fort Worth.

The Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA) is one of many electric power producers in Texas that rely on rail deliveries of coal we use to produce reliable, affordable electric power. Improving this critical, crowded interchange would benefit our wholesale electric customers, primarily municipally owned utilities and member-owned electric cooperatives, by improving the efficiency of rail deliveries to our power plants. From a broader perspective, these improvements would be good for the state of Texas and the many economic interests that rely on an efficient, safe and reliable rail transportation system.

As the economy continues to recover, it will become increasingly important to keep rail traffic moving through this intersection, where north-south and east-west rail traffic today are slowed in efforts to move goods between the United States, Mexico and Canada. This is a critical corridor for coal deliveries to power plants in this region. About 60,000 LCRA-owned rail cars travel through this interchange each year to deliver coal from the Powder River Basin in Wyoming to the Fayette Power Project. When the Sandy Creek Energy Station goes on-line in 2012, coal deliveries to the region likely will increase accordingly. Delays currently affect energy production, other industries, agriculture, and even passenger rail traffic.

We understand this project would address the speed and capacity of rail traffic through the area while also addressing a number of community and safety concerns. The project has received financial support from the rail companies, the City of Fort Worth, the North Central Texas Council of Governments, and the Fort Worth Transit Authority. Thank you for considering our support for this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tom G. Mason", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Thomas G. Mason
General Manager

cc: Amadeo Saenz Jr., P.E., Executive Director, Texas Department of Transportation