

GARY M. RIDLEY
Secretary of Transportation



BRAD HENRY
Governor

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

May 14, 2010

Mr. Joseph C. Szabo
United States Department of Transportation
Federal Railroad Administration
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590


Dear Mr. Szabo:

The Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT) would like to express its support for the Texas Department of Transportation's (TxDOT) proposal for a Federally-led multi-state passenger rail corridor planning demonstration project from Oklahoma City to San Antonio and other destination cities in South Texas. ODOT and TxDOT have a long and extensive history of working together cooperatively on multi-state rail corridors, most notably coordinating the states-supported route of Amtrak's Heartland Flyer.

ODOT looks forward to participating with TxDOT, the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), and rail stakeholders with assessing the capital investment needs of passenger rail along the I-35 corridor. We firmly believe that this vibrant and growing corridor could serve as a national model for future FRA-managed, multi-state rail planning projects.

If you have any questions or wish to discuss this issue further, please do not hesitate to contact me or Joe Kyle, manager of the Rail Programs Division, at (405) 521-2705 or via email at jkyle@odot.org.

Sincerely,


Gary M. Ridley
Secretary of Transportation

xc: Amadeo Saenz, TxDOT
William E. Glavin, TxDOT – Rail Division
Joe Kyle, ODOT