



French Thompson
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September 23, 2024

Amit Bose, Administrator
Federal Railroad Administration
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Subject: Letter of Support – Jonesboro Rail Crossing Study

Dear Administrator Bose,

BNSF Railway supports efforts by the City of Jonesboro, Arkansas to secure federal discretionary funding under the 2023/2024 Railroad Crossing Elimination (RCE) grant for the Jonesboro Rail Crossing Study project. If awarded, the project will provide a comprehensive city-wide study of at-grade crossings. BNSF would be willing to contribute \$150,000.00 in private matching funds towards the \$1,500,000.00 total project cost, if the request of \$1,200,000.00 is granted in RCE funds.

This request will study 18 crossings on the BNSF Thayer South Subdivision to develop a plan to help enhance safety, reduce congestion, and improve emergency response times, thereby boosting overall quality of life and improving the efficiency of freight movement in the region. The study would recommend a needed program of projects for safety enhancements, including crossing closures, active warning devices, roadway realignment, grade adjustments, and grade separations.

BNSF values our working relationship with the City of Jonesboro and is prepared to work with all involved public agencies on further development of this project, subject to satisfactory review of funding requirements, final engineering, and entering into definitive agreements as may be required by BNSF or other project stakeholders.

BNSF appreciates your thorough review of this application and looks forward to continuing its relationship with the City of Jonesboro through this important project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "French Thompson", with a stylized flourish at the end.

French Thompson
General Director – Public Infrastructure & Investments