



COLLIN COUNTY

Commissioners Court
2300 Bloomdale Road
Suite 4192
McKinney, Texas 75071
www.collincountytx.gov

October 17, 2011

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

Dear Secretary LaHood,

On behalf of Collin County, Texas it is our pleasure to write a letter of support for the Sunbelt Regional Short Line project being submitted by the State of Texas Department of Transportation and RailAmerica's Dallas Garland and Northeastern Railroad (DGNO) for the 2011 National Infrastructure Investment program.

The Sunbelt project will involve rail improvement work in three states; Texas, Oklahoma and Arkansas. Rail improvements will be made along the DGNO that operates throughout Collin County and connects with the national railroad network system. Businesses such as Lattimore Materials Company as well as Collin County, TX depend heavily on the DGNO railroad in concert with the national railroad network and provide safe and efficient transportation for the shipment of goods throughout Texas. It is neither practical nor cost effective to truck large, heavy bulk materials due to the distance and the volumes typically shipped via rail.

RailAmerica's DGNO Railroad is an economic importance to Collin County and our community; we fully support their endeavors to secure capital for reinvestment into the rail infrastructure customers vitally depend upon. Funding for the Sunbelt Regional Short Line project will support continued, safe, reliable rail service throughout Collin County, TX. As RailAmerica has communicated its plans to us, the Sunbelt Regional Short Line project will protect existing jobs and put unemployed people in this region back to work.

Respectfully,

Keith Self, County Judge

Matt Shaheen, Commissioner, Pct. 1

Cheryl Williams, Commissioner Pct. 2

Joe Jaynes, Commissioner, Pct. 3

Duncan Webb, Commissioner, Pct. 4