

Georgia Shepherd

Subject: Letter of support for Dallas Garland & Northeastern Railroad's (DGNO) Sunbelt Regional Short line project
Attachments: Collin County support letter Tiger3.docx; IMG.pdf

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I wanted to update you all regarding the Dallas Garland & Northeastern Railroad's (DGNO) Sunbelt Regional Short line project under the USDOT Tiger III discretionary grant program and thank the County for their support last year. The DGNO submitted an application last year and made it to the final round, however our project was not selected for funding.

Good news is that we are again working with Texas DOT, Oklahoma DOT and Arkansas ASHD for plans to submit a revised multi State Partnership project to upgrade the rail line to the national standard capacity for 286,000 lb rail car, rehab road crossings for enhanced safety, expand existing capacity to improve freight mobility, increase economic development opportunities as well as preserve/add jobs.

The total project is \$28.3 mil with proposed improvements on the DGNO estimated at \$11,7 mil with 127,631 man hours of labor required to complete. We are going to strongly encourage all of our contractors in the bid process to employ local unemployed labor. The DGNO has committed to providing a 25% matching funds toward this important project.

We so appreciated the support letter last year, copy attached, and are again asking for a letter of support for the Sunbelt Regional Short line project under the USDOT Tiger III discretionary grant program. I have attached a draft of this year's letter of support to Secretary Ray H. LaHood, U.S. Department of Transportation, please change as you like.

I really appreciate your time in providing us a letter of support. Once you have a signed letter please email me a copy and send it to me so we can include it with our final application to the USDOT due next month.

If you have any questions or I can be of help let me know.

Regards,

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