



OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

200 N. E. 21st Street

Oklahoma City, OK 73105-3204

January 28, 2010

ODOT statement regarding High-Speed Rail funding

The Oklahoma Department of Transportation has learned that it was not selected to receive high-speed rail funds through a competitive grant program as part of President Obama's American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

Naturally the department is disappointed in not receiving any of the \$2 billion requested for high-speed rail funds, however the department acknowledges the great demand across the nation for the grant money.

ODOT's application, submitted on October 1 included improvements and construction between Tulsa, Oklahoma City and the Texas state line, estimated at \$2 billion.

Oklahoma's requested improvements included:

- high-speed rail service from downtown Oklahoma City to downtown Tulsa along the I-44 Turner Turnpike corridor. Improvements to the route would include overpasses, acquisition of equipment and new signaling.
- improvements to the existing *Heartland Flyer* route include rail crossing safety upgrades, a double track from Oklahoma City to Norman and switch improvements along the route.

Additionally, we understand Kansas is receiving grant money on their request for a planning study with ODOT partnership. The corridor stretches from Kansas City – Wichita – Oklahoma City – Fort Worth. Oklahoma committed to the Kansas Department of Transportation that it would participate up to \$125,000 in the grant's matching fund requirement. Any future corridor expansions and improvements would require a subsidy for operation.

The federal application process was certainly time well spent and has allowed ODOT to gain a better understanding of high-speed rail corridors and needs and to prepare for future development. We welcome and seek more opportunities in the future for high-speed rail funding.

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(Editors and News Directors: For media inquiries, contact ODOT Media and Public Relations Division at 405-521-6000.)

"The mission of the Oklahoma Department of Transportation is to provide a safe, economical, and effective transportation network for the people, commerce and communities of Oklahoma."

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