

**Remarks Prepared for FRA Administrator Amit Bose  
Railroad Crossing Elimination Program Announcement  
Fort Worth, Texas  
Tuesday, June 6, 2023**

Thank you to the Texas Department of Transportation for organizing this event and for your steadfast support of the project we're celebrating today.

This is a very good day for Fort Worth and the many people who frequent the road behind me.

I know the Bonds Ranch Road rail crossing is something the community here has worked very hard to find a solution for, with good reason.

This rural two-lane road serves nearly 18,000 vehicles daily as a vital east-west connector to US 287 and surrounding communities.

Not to mention, it's a route that gets kids to school and teachers and administrators to their jobs.

As Secretary Buttigieg has said multiple times, most of the good ideas don't come from Washington, but more of the funds should...and now they are.

On behalf of the Biden-Harris Administration, I am thrilled to award more than \$17 million to eliminate a crossing that has prevented or slowed drivers and pedestrians from getting where they need to be.

This funding will also help construct a four-lane grade-separated road with new multi-modal shared-use bicycle and pedestrian pathways.

The grade separation will mean there's no possibility of collision between trains and vehicles and no waiting for a train to pass.

That means safer travel for the growing communities along the Haslet-Fort Worth-Saginaw Corridor, lots of time back in people's days, faster response times for emergency services, and a higher quality of life.

Many of us can relate to disruptions and delays at highway-rail crossings, and unfortunately, incidents at grade crossings and reports of blocked crossings remain far too common—not just here but nationwide.

The Federal Railroad Administration's top priority has always been safety, and we will continue to advance initiatives that decrease the unacceptable status quo of 2,000 grade crossing collisions and more than 200 casualties at crossings each year.

We're going to keep engaging communities and railroads to work together to drive down the more than 30,000 reports of blocked crossings FRA received through our online portal last year.

Importantly, thanks to President's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and the Railroad Crossing Elimination Program, we're funding new infrastructure to address these challenges through the first-ever federal program dedicated to eliminating railroad crossings.

Here in Texas, we're awarding five grants totaling nearly \$87 million, the highest total amount to a single state.

In Amarillo, we're awarding more than \$8.4 million to eliminate an existing grade crossing and build an overpass for a five-lane arterial road over a rail line. This modern, multi-modal bridge in the Eastridge Neighborhood will provide safe connections for all modes of transportation for the residents of Eastridge and surrounding neighborhoods.

We're building an overpass in San Antonio to decrease wait times for drivers and improve supply chain fluidity. We're eliminating two grade crossings and building a bridge in Dayton, Texas.

And in Houston, where I will be tomorrow, we're investing nearly \$37 million to fund a 9,000-foot sealed rail corridor and construct four underpasses so people can move safely and without delay.

In total, we're awarding \$570 million to 63 projects nationwide, impacting approximately 400 crossings in 32 States.

And with \$3 billion in RCE Program funds available over five years, more improvements are coming.

This is true through future rounds of the RCE Program as well as several other FRA competitive grant programs, such as our Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and

Safety Improvements Program, or CRISI for short, which is slated to award more than \$1.4 billion in the coming months to projects that enhance safety and get people and goods where they need to be.

But again, today is about celebrating this project right here in Fort Worth. Even with this new program and the unprecedented investments in the infrastructure law, we still received requests for about four times more funding than we were able to say yes to in this round of RCE.

So, I want to congratulate you all again for your very strong application in this competitive program.

I also want to thank the City of Fort Worth, BNSF, and our partners at the Federal Highway Administration for contributing to this project. Collaboration is key to advancing any project, and I hope to see similar partnerships going forward.

After all, public-private partnerships provide widespread benefits. Whether it be increased safety, reliability, resiliency, or capacity, modernizing America's rail and transportation network is a win-win for all.

The Biden-Harris Administration will continue to invest in safety and do all we can to advance rail projects that make a real difference in people's daily lives.

Today is another example of how we're Investing in America and delivering the commonsense things people have been asking for and deserve – and we're just getting started.

Thanks again, and congratulations.