



French Thompson
General Director
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December 1, 2022

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

Subject: BNSF Letter of Support – Southern Rail Connection

Dear Administrator Bose,

BNSF Railway supports efforts by the Port of Benton to secure federal discretionary funding under the 2022 Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvement (CRISI) grant for the Southern Rail Connection Project. If awarded, the grant will fund replacement of railroad crossings over busy roadways, enabling the ongoing success and growth of the Horn Rapids Industrial Park.

BNSF values our working relationship with the Port of Benton and is prepared to work with all involved public agencies on further development of this project, subject to satisfactory review of 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 Port of Benton through this important project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "French Thompson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

French Thompson
General Director – Public Infrastructure & Investments