

ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT
3RD DISTRICT, VIRGINIA

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September 20, 2024

Administrator Amit Bose
U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Railroad Administration
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Administrator Bose:

I am writing to ask that you give due consideration for the grant application submitted by the City of Chesapeake to the Federal Railroad Administration's (FRA) Railroad Crossing Elimination Grant Program (RCE).

Chesapeake is requesting approximately \$1 million from FRA to fund the Portlock Road Grade Separation Project. The aim of this project is to conduct planning activities that will enable city leaders to generate and evaluate potential solutions for grade separation at the intersection of Norfolk Southern's rail line and Portlock Road in Chesapeake. These activities include a Feasibility Study, National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA)/environmental clearance, and preliminary engineering (PE).

The primary goals of the Portlock Road Grade Separation Project are to reduce delays and congestion, increase safety and provide seamless access across Portlock Road. Currently, the Portlock Road crossing has eight tracks and incurs frequent delays. These delays can cause trains to be stopped for hours, which in turn blocks all vehicle traffic, leading pedestrians to cross the intersection on foot. These pedestrian crossings raise safety concerns which are heightened by the fact that the crossing is located less than half a mile away from an elementary school. Given the crossing's proximity to an elementary school, roughly one hundred school buses traverse the crossing every day. Similarly, frequent congestion at the crossing can result in delays in the delivery of emergency services.

As you are aware, the goal of the RCE grant program is to improve safety and eliminate lengthy delays at railroad crossings in communities across the country. Within the past five years alone, two fatal accidents have occurred at the Portlock Road crossing. If funded, the proposed Portlock Road Grade Separation Project would go a long way towards ensuring that such fatalities are eliminated while also significantly improving local traffic conditions for the citizens of Chesapeake.

For these reasons, I ask again that you give due consideration to the grant application submitted by the City of Chesapeake to the Federal Railroad Administration's (FRA) Railroad Crossing Elimination Grant Program (RCE).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bobby Scott".

Robert C. "Bobby" Scott
Member of Congress