

September 18, 2024

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

Re: Letter of Support – Railroad Crossing Elimination (RCE) Grant Program Application for the Cleveland/Country Club Intersection, Madera, CA

Dear Administrator Bose,

On behalf of the Madera County Transportation Commission (MCTC), I am writing to express our full support for the City of Madera’s Railroad Crossing Elimination (RCE) Grant Program application. This funding will support a planning study to improve safety and mobility at critical key crossings in Madera: Cleveland Avenue (DOT No. 019189U) and Yosemite Avenue (DOT No. 019192C), with focus on the Cleveland Avenue intersection. This area represents a major hub for vehicular traffic, freight movement, and pedestrian activities, involving key corridors such as State Route 99, W. Cleveland Avenue, N. Gateway Drive, Sharon Avenue, Country Club Drive, and the Union Pacific Railroad.

The Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) line through Madera is a critical segment of the national rail network and the domestic and international supply chain. Unfortunately, due to railway activity, high volumes of vehicle, bicycle and pedestrian traffic, residents commuting to work and nearby schools frequently experience traffic congestion, delays, and safety risks at these crossings. Recently, on September 5, 2024, a tragic fatal accident involving an individual vs train occurred at the Cleveland Avenue crossing, further underscoring the urgent need for federal investment in safety improvements.

The RCE grant will enable Madera to explore essential planning activities, including grade separation and safety enhancements aimed at reducing accidents and improving overall mobility. These improvements may also qualify the crossings for Quiet Zones, which would greatly benefit noise pollution for nearby residents and businesses.

MCTC strongly urges the Federal Railroad Administration to approve the City’s request for this critical project. With \$1.1 billion in RCE program reserves available, securing these funds would have a transformative impact on both the efficiency of the UPRR network and the safety and quality of life in Madera. Please accept this letter in full support of the City’s RCE grant application and thank you for your consideration of this vital project.

Sincerely,



Patricia Taylor, Executive Director
Madera County Transportation Commission