



## CITY OF NORMAN, OK STAFF REPORT

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**MEETING DATE:** 6/9/2026

**REQUESTER:** David Riesland, Transportation Engineer

**PRESENTER:** Scott Sturtz, P. E., Public Works Director

**ITEM TITLE:** CONSIDERATION OF ADOPTION, REJECTION, AMENDMENT, AND/OR POSTPONEMENT OF RESOLUTION R-2526-150:  
REQUESTING FEDERAL RAILROAD ADMINISTRATION  
CONSOLIDATED RAIL INFRASTRUCTURE AND SAFETY  
IMPROVEMENTS (CRISI) FUNDING FOR THE DESIGN OF A GRADE  
SEPARATION ON TECUMSEH ROAD AT THE BNSF RAILROAD  
CROSSING.

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### **BACKGROUND:**

The Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) funding program provides funding for the design and/or construction of improvements to the railway system. The program is designed to improve America rail assets by funding projects that enhance safety, reduce the State of Good Repair backlog, improve performance, and/or expand or establish new service if an eligible applicant is involved. Specifically, the program is designed to strengthen local economies, improve quality of life, protect the natural environment, and enhance transportation infrastructure. The current Notice of Funding Opportunity is open through June 22, 2026.

### **DISCUSSION:**

The Tecumseh Road crossing of the BNSF Railroad was first identified as a potential project in a specific plan when the City of Norman approved its first Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CPT) in May of 2014 and was also included in the 2025 CPT Update. This specific grant application will be co-sponsored by the City of Norman and the BNSF Railway Company. As the application progresses toward completion, it is anticipated that additional co-applicants may be identified. This application would lay the groundwork necessary for a future application aimed at securing funding necessary for the construction of this important bridge. The critical importance of this bridge was thrust to the forefront by the Norman Regional Hospital System to abandon the hospital facility on Porter Avenue in favor of a single facility on Tecumseh Road. This decision has created a situation where train blockages at the Tecumseh Road crossing could now have distinct, life-threatening consequences.

A Notice of Funding Opportunity is currently open with an anticipated close date of no earlier than June 22 2026. For this call, staff will be collaborating on a project to design the grade

separation on Tecumseh Road at the BNSF Railroad crossing.

If the city is successful in receiving a grant, City Council must consider acceptance of the grant and entering into an agreement with the Federal Railroad Administration and BNSF as well as any other co-applicants identified during the completion of the grant application. The City of Norman would be eligible to apply for construction funding of the grade separation at a future date to be determined.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends approval of Resolution No. R-2526-150 requesting CRISI grant funding to provide 80% of the anticipated \$1,800,000 design costs for the design of a grade separation on Tecumseh Road at the BNSF Railroad Crossing in Norman.