



## AGENDA REQUEST

**TO:** Mayor and City Council

**FROM:** Abby Christian, Grant Administrator

**DATE** 05 April 2022

**SUBJECT:** IN THE MATTER OF APPROVAL OF SUBMISSION OF RAISE GRANT – AC

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**Request:** Seeking the Council’s approval to submit the RAISE proposal. If awarded, this funding would be used for the planning and engineering of Tupelo’s three railroad projects (below).

**Agency:** Office of the Secretary of Transportation, Department of Transportation (DOT)

**Grant:** FY22, Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE)

**Amount:** \$25M maximum – TBD

**Match:** 20%

**Submission Deadline:** 14 April 2022

**Overview:** This project seeks to improve issues related to access, safety, traffic congestion, and noise from freight train activity within the city limits of Tupelo.

**Bridge:** The first is a highway overpass at the Eason Boulevard and Kansas City Southern Crossing. Eason Boulevard serves as an arterial for traffic to access highway 45 to the east and the North Mississippi Medical Center to the west. The average daily traffic count is currently 25,000 Vehicles. As a freight train moves through this crossing, traffic must stop, and anyone with a medical emergency on the east side of the crossing must wait an indefinite time before they can reach the area hospital.

**Switchyard Relocation:** The second is to move the Burlington Northern Santa Fe switchyard further away from the busiest intersection in Tupelo at Main Street and Gloster Street. The roads have an average daily traffic count of approximately 20,000 each. Traffic must sit through extended delays several times a day as the trains switch cars or travel through the crossing.

Burlington Northern Santa Fe has an average of 25 trains in a 24-hour period. The project seeks to locate a new switchyard further to the southwest of downtown Tupelo in order to improve safety for the railway employees and eliminate extended wait times at Tupelo’s busiest intersection.

**Quiet Zone:** The third is to develop a quiet zone along the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Line that will improve quality of life for current residents and businesses and spur new economic development in downtown Tupelo. Installing supplemental safety measures (SSMs) will improve infrastructure in place to limit the possibility of a collision between a train and a motor vehicle or a person walking. This aligns with the National Roadway Safety Strategy released in January 2022.