



League of Women Voters of Norman  
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January 7, 2009

The Honorable Brad Henry  
State Capitol Building  
2300 N. Lincoln Blvd., Suite 212  
Oklahoma City, OK 73105

Dear Governor Henry,

We recently wrote to you asking that an independent commission be appointed to examine the possible realignment of the I-40 Crosstown Expressway at the OKC Union Station rail yard. What we received in reply was essentially the standard response of a state agency.

“ ... Transportation officials have consistently advised the governor that nothing has changed since the routing decision was made to justify halting construction and altering the route, and they have further advised him that stopping work to reconsider the Crosstown’s path would cost the state hundreds of millions of dollars in delays ... State transportation officials have also reiterated to him that Oklahoma’s passenger rail future will not be negatively impacted by the new path of the Crosstown.”

We are alarmed that a state agency, an entity created by state government to administer policy, has the power to dictate policy. As Governor, you have apparently made no independent effort to reexamine this outdated decision in light of the current economic crisis and the public’s desire to reduce both oil consumption and pollution. A decision to demolish the rail yard at the Union Station Terminal Facility is a policy decision which must be reevaluated by our Governor, not by a state agency. The destruction of a valuable asset such as a major rail yard and central transportation hub will forever affect the future of transportation for all Oklahomans, contrary to the claims of ODOT. Furthermore, as Governor, we believe it is your duty to independently ascertain the growing public interest in and concern for the lack of viable modern rail transit in Oklahoma.

The Oklahoma Department of Transportation is duty bound to answer questions from elected officials, but it is the responsibility of elected officials to discover what is in the

public interest. For this reason, the League of Women Voters of Norman strongly urges you and your staff to include the extensive research done by the Oklahomans for New Transportation Alternatives Coalition (OnTrac) in your decision making process, and examine all options in good faith.

OnTrac Representatives:

Charles Wesner, 405-321-2204, 405-821-4301, c.wesner@sbcglobal.net

Marion Hutchison, 405-205-2458, mariohutch@sbcglobal.net

The League of Women Voters of Norman respectfully requests a meeting with you to discuss the affect that the loss of Oklahoma City Union Station rail yard will have on the future of Oklahoma.

Sincerely,

(signed)

Barbara Robinson, President  
League of Women Voters of Norman

cc: All members and friends of the League of Women Voters of Norman