



June 5, 2026

The Honorable David Armstrong Fink
Administrator
U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Railroad Administration
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

Subject: Support for Gulf Coast District's Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Consolidation Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) Application.

Dear Administrator Fink,

I am writing on behalf of the Galveston County Office of Emergency Management to express our strong support for the Gulf Coast Rail District's application under the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements Program (CRISI). We firmly believe that the proposed Rail Corridor Risk Analysis will greatly enhance disaster management planning and training within the Gulf Coast Rail District (GCRD) area.

At the Galveston County Office of Emergency Management, we understand that effective disaster management is crucial for enhancing community resilience, ensuring public safety, and supporting sustainable recovery efforts. The funding sought through this grant presents a vital opportunity to advance hazardous materials preparedness, rail safety coordination, and emergency response planning not only across the Gulf Coast region but also in neighboring areas.

The training component embedded within this proposal is particularly noteworthy. It promises to support the development and implementation of training and resources to equip emergency management agencies and local first responders with the necessary tools and knowledge to effectively respond to incidents involving rail transportation. By enhancing their preparedness and response capabilities, we can collectively foster a safer environment for our communities.

We enthusiastically endorse the consideration of this application and encourage its approval. We are confident that the outcomes of this project will have a lasting positive impact on the Gulf Coast region and contribute towards a more resilient future.

Thank you for considering our support for this important initiative.

Sincerely,



Jesse B. Ryholt
Director, Office of Emergency Management
Galveston County Office of Emergency Management
1353 FM 646 W. Suite 201
Dickinson, TX, 77539
Jesse.rvholt@galvestoncountytx.gov
409-392-0190