

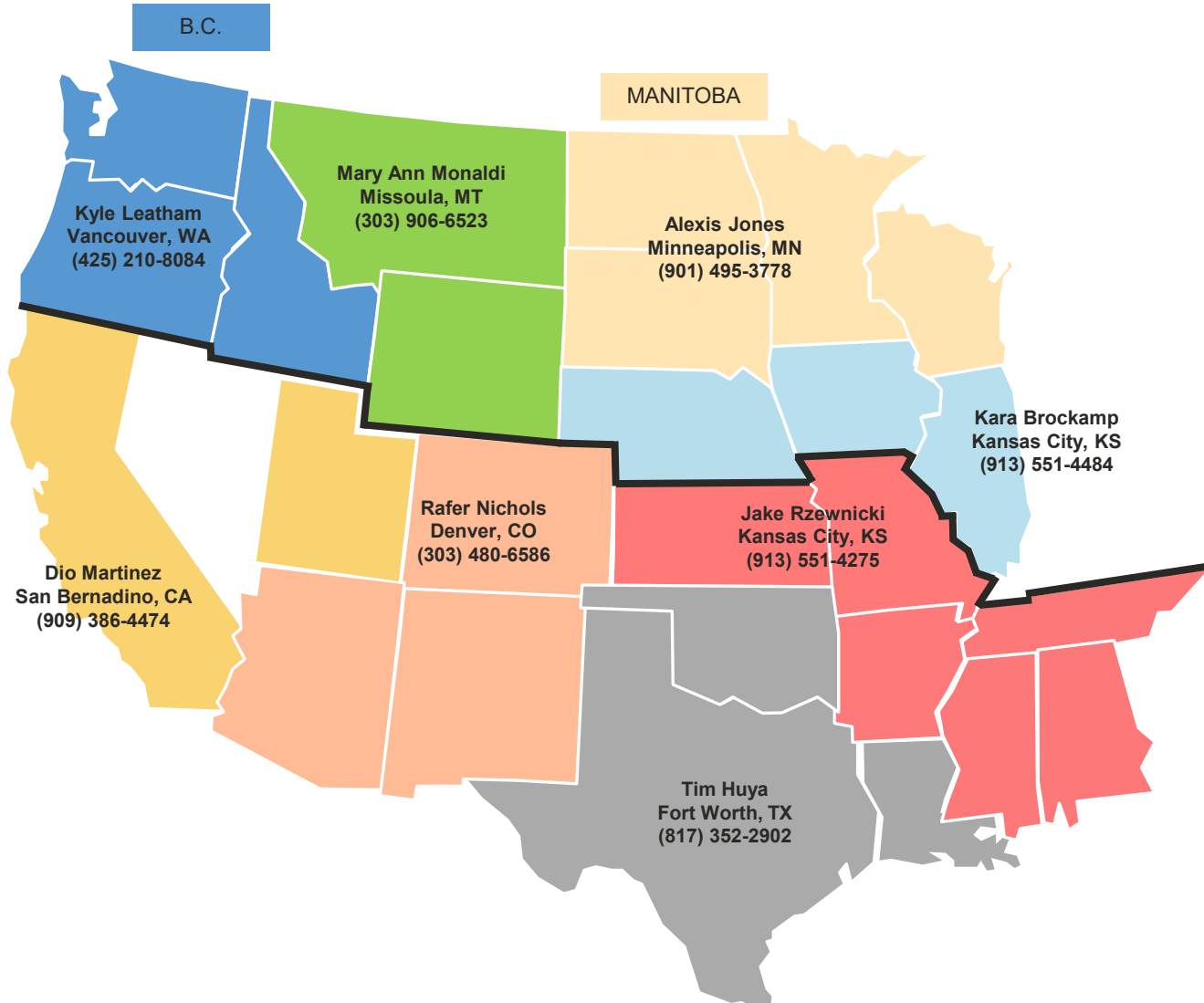


Working with Railroads

ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FALL PLANNING CONFERENCE –
NORMAL, IL

SEPTEMBER 2026

BNSF Public Projects Team



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BNSF Public Projects
Managers are the **front door**
and provide guidance on **how**
to work alongside BNSF.

Low Touch Projects

Project Examples

- Mill & Overlay (without lane or striping changes – refresh ok)
- Bridge inspection
- Ditch or culvert cleaning (more than 10 ft from tracks)
- Survey

Criteria: No permanent changes to Railroad Right of Way. The general scope of these types of projects is to restore functionality as the infrastructure was initially designed.

Notes

- Permit Application may be found at <https://bnsf.railpermitting.com>
- Primary representative is JLL Permit Territory Manager (Illinois: Chris McQuiniff)
- No need to reach out to Manager Public Projects unless you have questions



Medium Touch Projects

Project Examples

- Sidewalk Addition
- Lane/Roadway Changes without Signal Interconnection
- Crossing Surface Rehabilitation

Criteria: Permanent improvements that don't require a crane or temporary shoring to construct

Notes

- Most will require Construction & Maintenance Agreement but not a Preliminary Engineering Agreement
- Reach out to the Manager of Public Projects for confirmation as soon as you have a concept



High Touch Projects

Project Examples

- New, Reconstructed, or Major Rehab Overhead Bridges
- Interconnected Crossings
- Underpasses
- Culverts Larger than 36"

Criteria: Permanent improvements that will likely require a crane, shoring, or falsework to construct; Complex signal project

Notes

- All will require Construction & Maintenance Agreement (C&M) and Preliminary Engineering Agreement (PEA)
- Most will require inspection through BNSF's third-party Inspector Coordinator program
- Reach out to the Manager of Public Projects for a PEA as soon as you have a concept

Agency Develops
Concept

PEA Executed

Agency Develops
Plans, BNSF
Reviews Plans,
Joint Diagnostic for
Crossing Projects

Construction &
Maintenance
Agreement Signed

C&C1 (Contractor
ROE) Signed

Acquisition of
Flagging through
Wilson & Company

Utilities

Project Examples

- Overhead crossings of pipe or wire
- Underground crossings of pipe or wire
- Parallel installations of pipe or wire
- Culverts less than 36"

Notes

- All will require permit from JLL
- All installations should follow BNSF Utility Accommodation Policy
- If a variance against the UAP is needed, call that out in your application and provide justification
- Primary representative is JLL Permit Territory Manager (Illinois: Chris McQuiniff)
- Engineering review is provided by Bartlett & West – variances are forwarded to BNSF for review
- The application can be submitted by anyone, but the utility owner needs to sign agreement
- Reach out to the Manager of Public Projects or Manager of Engineering for any questions



Project Alignment and BNSF Funding

Long Distance Corridors / Amtrak

- Slow Order Mitigation
- Siding Extensions
- Slide Fences
- Snow Shed Expansion / Rehabilitation
- Platform Expansion / Addition
- Station Modifications

Terminal and Corridor Supply Chain Efficiency

- Siding Length Increases
- Crossing Eliminations in Sidings
- Single Track / Bottleneck Locations
- Crossing Elimination near yards / terminals

Strategic Grade Seps / Exposure Reduction

- Corridor Grade Separations
- High Exposure Crossings
- Low Clearance Bridges/Bridge Strikes
- Passenger Corridors – Commuter, AMTK

Service Interruption Reduction

- Low Clearance Bridges
- Crossing Consolidation
- Fencing
- Pedestrian / Trespasser Mitigation
- Slope Stabilization
- Corridor Resiliency PTC Hardening

BNSF wants to help our public partners access, leverage and maximize federal funding to progress their projects

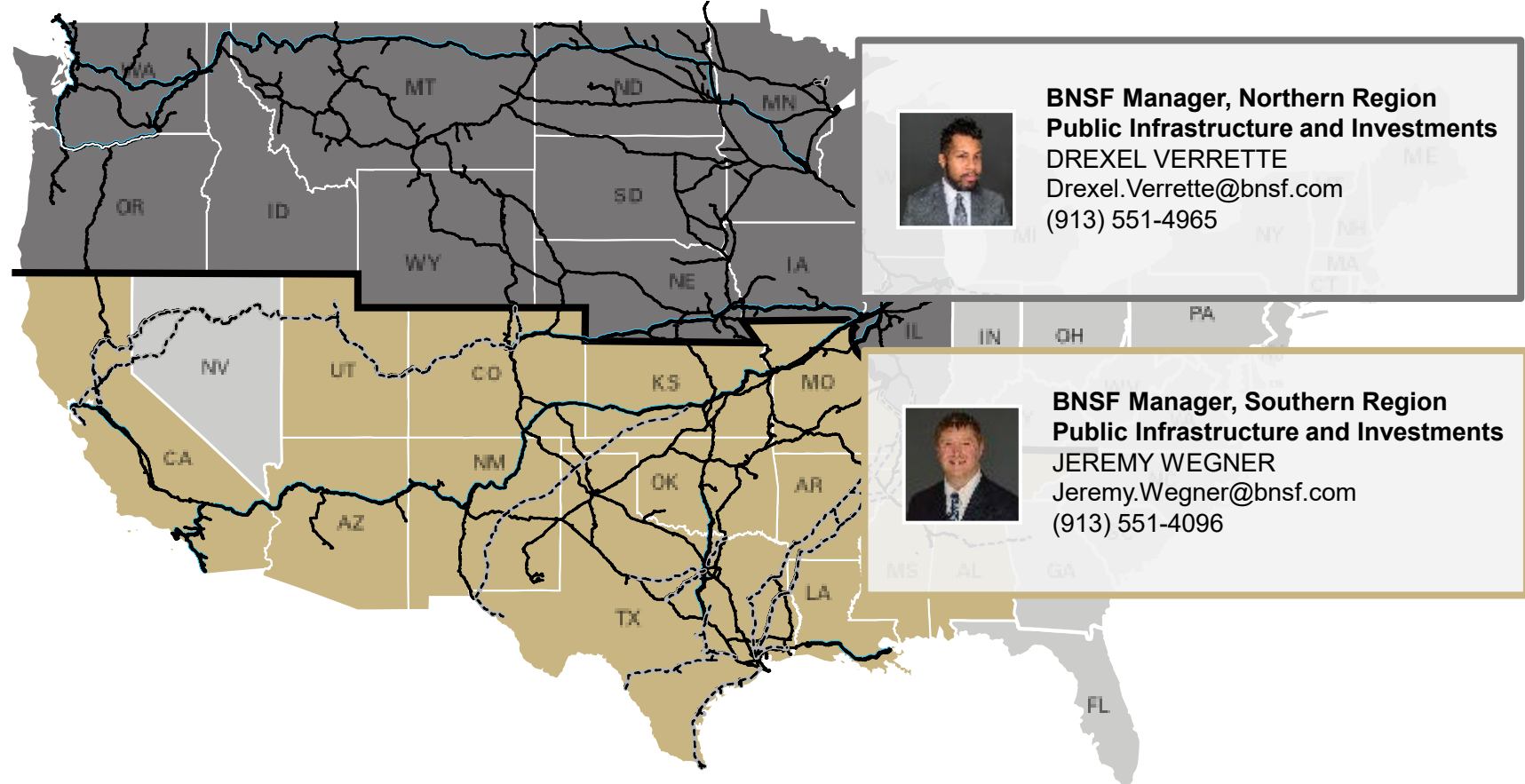
Public Infrastructure and Investments (Grants)



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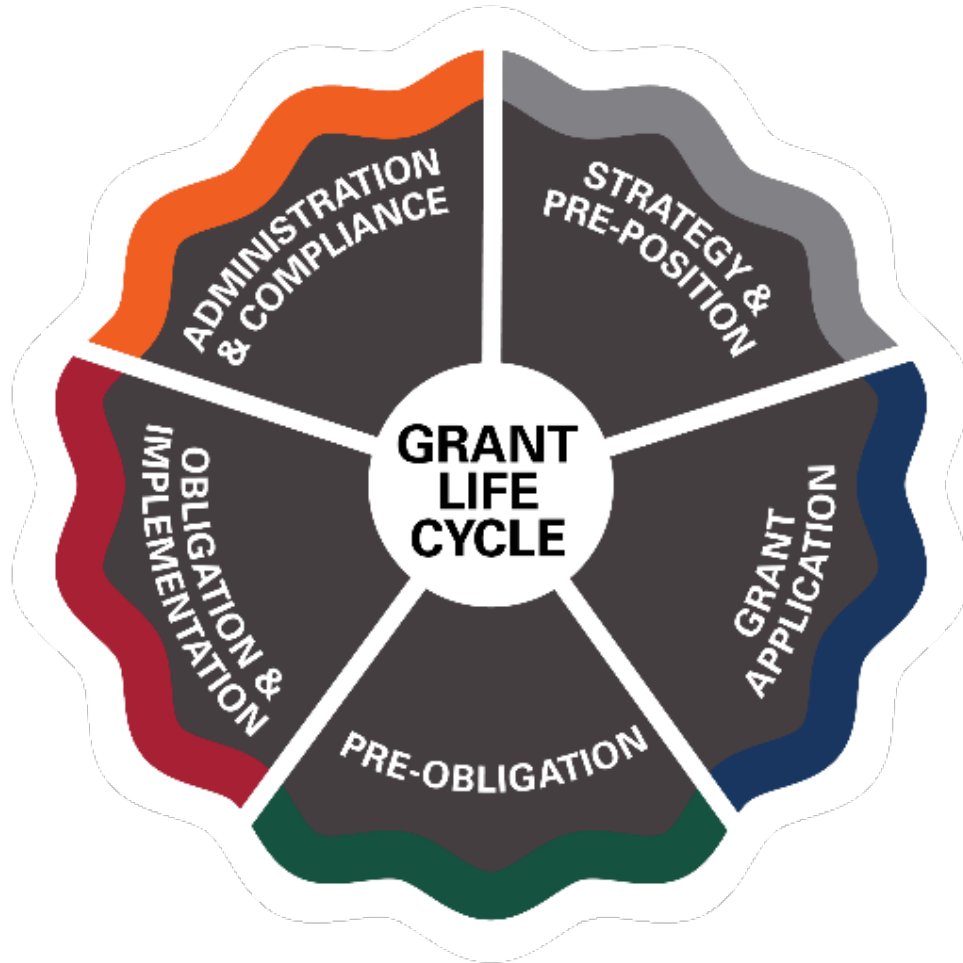


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GRANT LIFE CYCLE



Strategy & Pre-Position

Aligning funding opportunities with the right project and private partner.

Result: Application readiness

Grant Application

Submitting a compelling grant that meet NOFO requirements.

Result: Submittal of competitive grant application

Pre-Obligation

Securing awarded funds.

Result: Coordination with administering agency

Obligation & Implementation

Signing the grant and performing the grant-funded work.

Result: Completion of identified deliverables

Administration & Compliance

Adhering to administration expectations and requirements (runs concurrent with Implementation).

Result: Delivery of a federally compliant project

How the BNSF Grants Team Identifies Projects

PUBLIC SOURCES



Rail State Plans



Council of Governments (CoG) & Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Development Plans



FRA Top 100 List



FRA Blocked Crossing List



FRA Gxaps Database



Passenger Service Development Plans



County or city road plans



BNSF NEEDS



A. Public Projects

Crossings with reportable incidents/fatalities
BNSF Occupied crossings



B. Capacity Planning

Capacity constraints
Staging capacity
Double track capacity
Yard bottlenecks



C. Intermodal/Automotive

Access challenges
Security measures



D. Government Affairs/Public Affairs

Strategic community support



E. MOW & Structures

Long-term capital maintenance/reconstruction



F. Transportation

Division bottlenecks
Service interruption locations



G. Resource Protection

High vandalism corridors
High trespass corridors/locations



H. Misc.

Passenger Ops
Shortlines



We leverage public information and internal business needs to identify and prioritize projects that drive safety, efficiency, capacity and community impact.

EXPERTISE AND RESOURCES FOR GRANT SUCCESS

How we can partner with you:



Strategic Planning

We can help decode the grant process and align the right funding opportunities with the right project.



Grant Application Authoring

Our expertise in navigating the grant process has resulted in dozens of successful applications and wins. Partners benefit from our ability to appropriately narrate project benefits to administrators.



Benefit-Cost Analysis

We can help you identify, quantify, and compare expected benefits and costs of a potential project.



Letter of Support

Projects that involve a BNSF Right-of-Way require a Letter of Support for the grant application. Our online Letter of Support form provides BNSF with key information about the project and can help highlight its importance.



Community Outreach

We have been supporting communities for over 170 years. We can partner with your community stakeholders to develop the right infrastructure to transform your communities for the better.



Grant Administration

Drawing on experience, we can build internal capacity with your staff to meet the specific requirements of receiving federal funds.

AASHTO Survey

Survey of AASHTO Members – Provided to AAR + BNSF Efforts to Address

Flagging Coordination and Scheduling	BNSF Leverages multiple 3 rd party flaggers for agency flexibility and availability and a coordination service for transparency and optionality around price and schedule
Right of Entry and Permitting	Real Estate team and Public Projects publishes and communicates ROE requirements and expected timelines. Access to BNSF ROW is strictly manages for safety reasons
Plan Review and Approval Processes	Public Projects Manual, available online, outlines specific plan review requirements and timelines. Any variation from those timelines is elevated to ESS leadership
Legal and Insurance Requirements	Sample agreement templates and legal/insurance requirements are readily available on BNSF's external website, providing ample preparation for BNSF expectations
Invoicing and Reimbursement Delays	Government Billing team and ESS finance team meets monthly to review outstanding invoices, billing discrepancies and meets in person with 3-4 targeted agencies per year
Traffic Impacts and Right of Way	BNSF has specific requirements around agency coordination for temporary crossing closures, additionally, BNSF's Crossing Replacement Program proactively coordinates with agencies
Use of Third-Party Vendors	Statewide consultants utilized to supplement BNSF's plan reviews, structural reviews and onsite project inspection and oversight for plan compliance

Tracking to Zero Award: Year 3

Awarded each year to State DOT rail offices averaging < 1.00 grade crossing incident per million BNSF Train miles in the previous year.

Montana, Wyoming: 3x recipients

Idaho, New Mexico: 2x recipient

Alabama, Illinois, Iowa, Missouri, Wisconsin : 1x recipients

Model State Programs:

- Eliminating at-grade crossings / implementing grade separations
- Enhancing signal systems and signage at existing crossings
- Researching and piloting new crossing safety technologies
- Leveraging future-facing State Rail and Freight plans
- Utilizing both state and federal funding to maximize railroad crossing safety improvements
- Prioritizing community education, appropriate land use planning, and crossing safety awareness campaigns
- Implementing various measures to reduce railroad trespassing





BNSF[®]
RAILWAY



**GOING THE EXTRA MILE TO DISCOVER,
DEVELOP, AND DELIVER GRANT PROJECTS.**