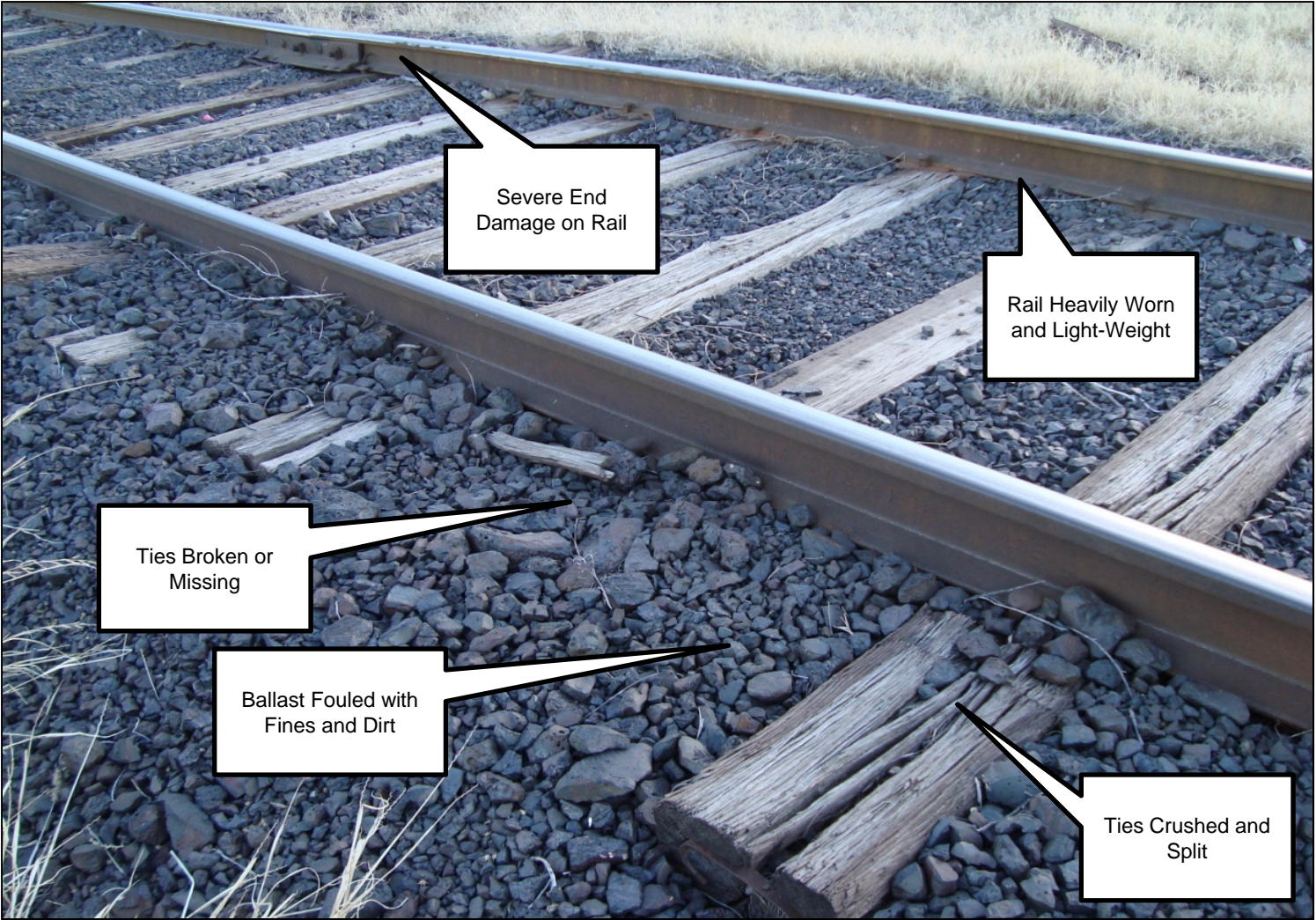


**Central Arizona Association of Governments  
Arizona Eastern Railway  
TIGER IV Grant Application**

# Current Condition of AZER Main Line



# Thank You!

## THE SAN CARLOS APACHE TRIBE

San Carlos Avenue  
P.O. Box 0  
San Carlos, Arizona 85550  
PH: (928) 475-2361  
FAX: (928) 475-2451



Terry Rambler  
Chairman

Dr. John Bush  
Vice-Chairman

March 15, 2012

The Honorable Ray H. LaHood  
Secretary of Transportation  
United States Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Subject: TIGER IV Southeast Arizona Rail Freight Corridor Improvement Project

Dear Secretary LaHood:

The San Carlos Apache Tribe is hard at work to make sure that all of its members have access to safe, efficient and affordable transportation options. Providing such services is very important for tribal members living in our communities, helping them to improve their quality of life and have access to meaningful employment.

I understand that the Arizona Eastern Railway, through the Central Arizona Association of Governments, will soon be submitting a TIGER IV grant request to undertake a major upgrade to its main line. A section of this line passes through the San Carlos Apache Indian Reservation. Freight services provided by this railroad are an important part of expanding job growth in our area, especially around our communities.

The public benefits of this project are many. It will provide immediate support for a significant increase of employment by a major copper manufacturing company. The project will also facilitate a significant reduction in the number of trucks that otherwise would be traveling tribal, federal, state and local highways in region.

This is very important and valid TIGER IV submission, and has the full support of San Carlos Apache Tribe.

Sincerely,

Terry Rambler, Chairman  
San Carlos Apache Tribe

Cc: Mr. Brian Tapp, Executive Director, Central Arizona Association of Governments  
Mr. Jerry Vest, Arizona Eastern Railway

SAN CARLOS AVE., P.O. BOX 0 SAN CARLOS, AZ 85550  
PHONE: (928) 475-2361 FAX: (928) 475-2567



Janice K. Brewer  
Governor  
John S. Halikowski  
Director

## Arizona Department of Transportation

Office of the Director

206 South Seventeenth Avenue Phoenix, Arizona 85007-3213

March 12, 2012

John A. Bogert  
Deputy Director  
for Operations  
Floyd Roehrich, Jr.  
Deputy Director  
for Policy

The Honorable Ray H. LaHood  
Secretary of Transportation  
United States Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary LaHood:

I am writing in support of the Tiger IV grant application for the Arizona Eastern Railway submitted by the Central Arizona Association of Governments. The project will provide a major upgrade of the Arizona Eastern Railroad by replacing very light weight and obsolete rail on its main line.

This rail line is a vital freight transportation network in our state, providing communities and customers with an important connection to the North American rail freight network. The railroad provides access to rugged and remote areas of Arizona where freight transportation options are limited. It serves an area where mining is returning and providing an economic boost to rural Arizona.

As stated in the March, 2011 Arizona State Rail Plan:

"The ability to maintain the existing infrastructure in a state of good repair is a challenge for the short lines, which lack the resources of larger railroads. Many of these lines suffered from years of deferred maintenance before being spun off by the Class I carriers. Many short lines find it difficult to catch up, as their limited resources are expended in making emergency repairs."

Thank you for your consideration of this project.

Sincerely,

John Halikowski

cc: Mr. Brian Tapp, Executive Director, Central Arizona Association of Governments  
Mr. Jerry Vest, Arizona Eastern Railway