

FAST TRACK TO SUCCESS!

April 16, 2020

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590
United States

Ref: BUILD Grant Award for the Southwest Oklahoma Regional Freight Plan

Dear Secretary Chao:

On behalf of Duncan Area Economic Development Foundation (DAEDF), I am writing in support of the Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Transportation discretionary grant application by the South Western Oklahoma Development Authority (SWODA), the Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT), and its partners.

With your assistance, ODOT will be able to safely and efficiently move freight throughout Southwest Oklahoma, thereby reducing freight bottlenecks and improving oversize/overweight route issues through networks connected to greater Oklahoma and the country. Freight movement is threatened by inefficiencies in the network, projected growth in the years ahead, and a lack of adequate technology infrastructure. The BUILD grant award will help provide planning efforts to safely and effectively move freight throughout the region and will equip and prepare freight networks for present and future technological advancements.

This planning initiative enjoys broad support because Southwest Oklahoma supports many robust freight-dependent industries, including oil and gas, agriculture, wind energy, and military installations. The southwest region is a vital to component in connecting statewide freight flows. The state of Oklahoma transports over 800 million tons of freight annually, which includes 512.2 million tons through, 79.1 million tons inbound, and 99.7 tons outbound throughout Oklahoma. The value of these transported goods is roughly 1.3 billion, contributing substantially to the statewide economy.

DAEDF benefits directly from Southwest Oklahoma Regional Freight Plan because this coordinated effort benefits a regional approach to resolving issues faced by our businesses and the customers they serve.

On behalf of DAEDF, I hope you and the U.S. DOT will award a BUILD grant to the SWODA in support of its Southwest Oklahoma Regional Freight Plan. Your support will make it possible for our region to further strengthen the impact of decades of significant state and local investments in this important region.

Sincerely,



Lyle L. Roggow
President

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