



ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH CENTRAL
OKLAHOMA GOVERNMENTS

May 27, 2021

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590
United States

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

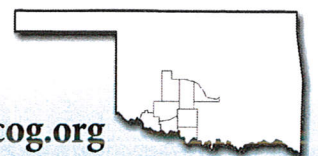
Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of the Association of South Central Oklahoma Governments (ASCOG), I am writing in support of the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) 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 RAISE grant award will help provide planning efforts to move freight safely and effectively throughout the region and will equip and prepare freight networks for present and future technology advancements.

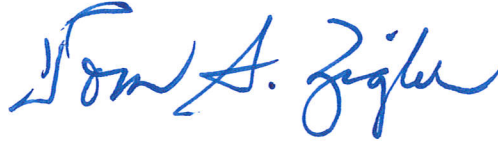
This planning initiative enjoys broad support because Southwest Oklahoma supports many robust freight-dependent industries, including oil and gas, agriculture, wind energy, and military installations. The southwest region is a vital to component in connecting statewide freight flows. The state of Oklahoma 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.

ASCOG benefits directly from Southwest Oklahoma Regional Freight Plan because the project will impact the movement of goods and people including how the project increases the efficiency of movement and thereby reduces costs of doing business, improves local and regional freight connectivity to the national and global economy, reduces burdens of commuting, and improves overall well-being.



On behalf of ASCOG, I hope you and the U.S. DOT will award a RAISE grant to 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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tom S. Zigler". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Tom" being the most prominent.

Tom S. Zigler
Community Economic Development Director
Association of South Central Oklahoma Governments