



June 7, 2021

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
US 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 Duncan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, I am writing in support of the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) 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 move freight safely and efficiently 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 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.



The Duncan Chamber of Commerce and its membership benefits directly from Southwest Oklahoma Regional Freight Plan because it will significantly contribute to the economic development, vitality, and quality of life of our region, create greater social and economic equality by improving efficiency, growth, and safety of access to jobs.

On behalf of the Duncan Chamber of Commerce & Industry and Duncan, Oklahoma, I hope you and the U.S. DOT will award a RAISE 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,

Chris Deal, President & CEO
Duncan Chamber of Commerce and Industry