



District Three
District Five
District Seven
P.O. Box 460
Duncan, OK 73534
(580)255-7586
www.odot.org

May 27, 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 the Oklahoma Department of Transportation Field Divisions 3, 5 and 7 we are writing in support of the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) discretionary grant discretionary submitted by the South Western Oklahoma Development Authority (SWODA) for a planning grant to develop a Southwest Oklahoma Regional Freight Mobility Plan. As members of the policy board that considers and acts upon transportation issues in the southwest region of the state, we as Field Division Engineers have participated in the development of multiple countywide transportation plans where stakeholders submitted comments on the need to improve freight movement and connectivity, increase safety and identify rural freight routes in the state of Oklahoma. Upon adoption of this Plan the region will benefit from the comprehensive review and analysis of freight current and future freight mobility needs, connectivity with regional markets and industries and policies for prioritizing projects within southwest Oklahoma.

We believe this project provides an innovative approach to identifying and examining current and future freight needs at a regional level that we anticipate will provide opportunities for future public/private investments to help lower transportation costs. Specifically, development of this plan will help:

- Facilitate federal, state, local, and private sector collaboration to Improve the efficiency of the national freight network;
- Improve transportation safety by identifying technology opportunities to reduce collisions;
- Improve and increase transportation options and destinations for products;
- Identify bottlenecks;
- Reduce the use of fossil fuels and shrink emissions due to less more efficient truck and rail miles;
- Prioritize regional projects that support the freight industry; and
- Support growth in warehousing and distribution centers in the region.

"The mission of the Oklahoma Department of Transportation is to provide a safe, economical, and effective transportation network for the people, commerce and communities of Oklahoma."

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER



OKLAHOMA
Transportation

With this grant the region and its partners will help guide efforts to move freight safely and effectively throughout the region and equip and prepare freight networks for present and future technological advancements.

We hope you will give this project serious consideration.

Sincerely,

Ron Brown
ODOT District Engineer, Division 3

Brent Almquist
ODOT District Engineer, Division 5

Jay Earp
ODOT District Engineer, Division 7

"The mission of the Oklahoma Department of Transportation is to provide a safe, economical, and effective transportation network for the people, commerce and communities of Oklahoma."

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER