



OKLAHOMA
Commerce

900 N. Stiles Avenue
Oklahoma City, OK 73104, USA
405-815-5251 | Toll Free 800-588-5959
OKCOMMERCE.GOV

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 the Oklahoma Department of Commerce, 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 Oklahoma Department of Commerce benefits directly from Southwest Oklahoma Regional Freight Plan because, as the agency primarily responsible for economic development within the State, the safe and effective movement of freight through the State is crucial to the success of our industries and is beneficial to our overall economic health through job creation.

On behalf of The Oklahoma Department of Commerce, 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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Brent K", with a stylized flourish extending from the end.

Brent Kisling
Executive Director
Oklahoma Department of Commerce
900 N Stiles Ave., Oklahoma City, OK 73104