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Congress of the United States
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DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

March 31, 2022

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

RE: RAISE Grant Award for Southwest Oklahoma Multi Modal Long Range Transportation Freight Plan

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing this letter in support of the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) discretionary grant application submitted by South Western Oklahoma Development Authority (SWODA), Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT), and its partners to fund the Southwest Oklahoma Multi Modal Long Range Transportation Plan.

Enhancing safe, reliable, and efficient movement of people and goods both in and out of southwest Oklahoma will strengthen the region, state and nation's economies through identification and prioritization of projects that will safely and effectively provide opportunities for all users to access the transportation system, equip and prepare the system for present and future technological advancements.

This planning initiative is supported by a broad base of partners that recognize the importance of a transportation system that encourages a system that is accessible and carefully planned to support not only motor vehicles but non-motorized users. The interconnections of the highway system, local roads, transit, bicycle and pedestrian facilities is vital to the southwest Oklahoma region. Completion of this Project will have a significant impact on the regional economy and will serve as an opportunity to enhance reliable and accessible transportation which is a key ingredient in movement of people, goods and commodities throughout this region, state, and nation.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I ask that you give every consideration to SWODA's RAISE grant application in support of its Southwest Oklahoma Multi Modal Long Range Transportation Plan. Investment in this project in the rural area of southwest Oklahoma will provide opportunities for economic development, reduction of emissions and more efficient movement of people, goods, and commodities. This grant will make it possible for this region to further strengthen the impact of decades of significant state and local investments in southwest Oklahoma.

Sincerely,



Frank D. Lucas
Member of Congress

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