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April 6, 2022

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

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing on behalf of DRH Health 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.

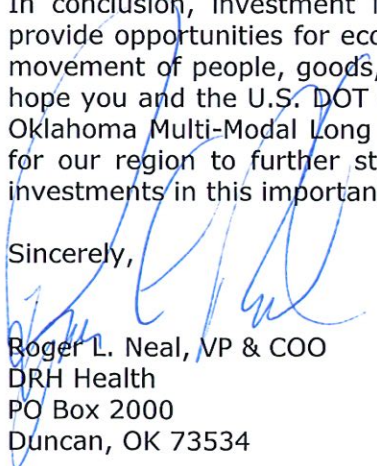
Enhancing the safe, reliable, and efficient movement of people and goods both in and out of southwest Oklahoma will strengthen the region, state, and nation's economies through the identification and prioritization of projects that will safely and effectively provide opportunities for all users to access 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 lack of accessible transportation for individuals to get to their health care provider is a serious issue in our rural communities. All of our communities need the use of public walking and bike trails to help improve their overall health is vital.

The interconnections of the highway system, local roads, transit, bicycle, and pedestrian facilities are 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 the movement of people, goods, and commodities throughout this region, state, and nation.

In conclusion, 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. On behalf of Pathways to a Healthier You, I hope you and the U.S. DOT will award a RAISE grant to SWODA in support of its southwest Oklahoma Multi-Modal Long Range Transportation 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,



Roger L. Neal, VP & COO
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