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April 4, 2022

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 Multi Modal Long Range Transportation Plan

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

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

Designing a safe, reliable, and efficient transportation system for all users in and out of southwest Oklahoma will strengthen the region through identification and prioritization of projects that will safely and effectively provide opportunities for all users to move throughout the region and state.

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 and 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.

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 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,

Brent Kisling

Executive Director