



March 29, 2022

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

Re: Southwest Oklahoma Multimodal Long Range Transportation Plan-RAISE Grant Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing on behalf of Norman Regional Health System (NRHS), 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 Multimodal Long Range Transportation Plan.

Designing an efficient transportation system for all users in and out of southwest Oklahoma is critical to accessing vital services such as acute inpatient and outpatient wellness care. NRHS provides ongoing health services for many residents in the southwestern part of the state. The health system also serves as the lead agency for the Tobacco Settlement Endowment Trust (TSET) Healthy Living Programs in Grady and McClain Counties. We support the Southwest Oklahoma Multimodal Long Range Transportation plan that will provide access to safe and reliable transportation for our patients and the residents in these counties.

This planning initiative is supported by a broad base of regional partners that recognize the importance of a carefully planned and accessible transportation system to support not only motor vehicles but non-motorized users, as well. 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 the overall health and wellness of its citizens in this region of the state.

On behalf of Norman Regional Health System, we urge the U.S. Department of Transportation to award SWODA a RAISE grant in support of its Southwest Oklahoma Multimodal Long Range Transportation Plan. Your support will make it possible to improve the quality of life in this region and further strengthen the safety, infrastructure conditions and system reliability of Oklahoma's 21st century plan for interconnected transportation

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Richie Splitte'.

Richie Splitte, FACHE
President & CEO