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October 5, 2017

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao
U.S. Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

RE: Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) funding for the US-81 bypass in Grady County

Honorable Secretary Chao:

I am writing to voice our organization's strong support of the Oklahoma Department of Transportation's (ODOT) application for an Infrastructure for Rebuilding American (INFRA) grant to assist with the US-81 bypass in Grady County. The proposed improvements to US-81 are both necessary and urgent to provide for motorist safety, better facilitate traffic and improve freight movement and to meet the strategic goals of both ODOT and the region.

The original route of US-81 through the middle of Chickasha involving multiple traffic signals and making a 90° turn on to Hwy 62 in the heart of our downtown, long ago became overburdened by the increasing traffic flow of vehicles and trucks traveling through our community on US-81. Just in the last few weeks, I witnessed a wind turbine blade on truck / trailer negotiating the turn. Light poles on both sides of the road were bent in the process.

The First National Bank and Trust Company strongly supports the US-81 bypass project for its vital contribution to the region, state and nation. The proposed project supports a network that is critical to Oklahoma's economy and freight movement. We strongly urge your support of full funding for the project. Thank you for your consideration and please feel free to call on us should you have questions or if you require additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Patrick A. Brooks".

Patrick A. Brooks
Chairman