



February 22, 2019

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, Oklahoma

Honorable Secretary Chao:

On behalf of the Southwest Oklahoma Regional Transportation Planning Organization (SORTPO), a sixteen-county regional transportation planning organization I am writing to voice our organization's strong support of the Oklahoma Department of Transportation's (ODOT) application for an Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (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 SORTPO's planning program.

Development of the US-81 bypass project is vital to enhancing truck freight connectivity to the region, state and nation. This 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,

DEBORA GLASGOW
Executive Director