

University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma

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OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

May 17, 2022

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg U.S. Secretary of Transportation U.S. Department of Transportation 1200 New Jersey Ave, SE Washington, DC 20590

Dear Honorable Secretary Buttigieg,

Please accept my letter in support of the Oklahoma Department of Transportation's (ODOT) application for a **Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant** to assist in supporting the U.S. Highway 81 Bypass located in Chickasha, Grady County, Oklahoma. Completing this project is not only critically important to the community but specifically to my college. A bypass will have extremely favorable impact on encouraging commercial, retail and residential development in important areas of the community which are now inundated with inordinately heavy and disruptive car and truck traffic. Rerouting this traffic will immeasurably improve the general quality of life in the community and provide a significant boost to the college's potential to recruit and retain student numbers from across Oklahoma and out-of-state. The University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma strongly supports the U.S. Highway 81 Bypass project and the very positive effect it will have on the state, region and this community. I strongly urge your support of full funding for the project.

Thank you for your favorable consideration and please feel free to call me, should you have additional questions.