

October 10, 2022



GROWING TOGETHER

Live. Learn. Thrive.

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

RE: Reconnecting Communities Pilot for the I-244 Study: A Plan to Enhance Mobility and Connectivity in North Tulsa

Honorable Secretary Buttigieg:

Growing Together is a community-centered neighborhood revitalization organization in the Kendall-Whittier neighborhood – a neighborhood deeply impacted by I-244 dissecting the center of our historic community. The impacts of this dissection has been long felt since the very beginning.

We are pleased to submit this letter in support of the Oklahoma Department of Transportation's (ODOT) and City of Tulsa's joint application for a Reconnecting Communities Pilot (RCP) discretionary planning grant to study I-244 in North Tulsa.

I-244 is the northern section of the Inner Dispersal Loop around Downtown Tulsa. While this section of Interstate Highway helps mitigate traffic congestion throughout North Tulsa it also has undesirable effects on surrounding communities. Local partners have worked on studies for future planning to improve local mobility, quality of life and equity, but have not had an opportunity to fully review options with I-244.

With RCP grant funding, ODOT and the City of Tulsa will engage these communities to identify the effects of I-244 and provide viable options to mitigate the impacts and increase connectivity across I-244. This Study will identify community connectivity solutions that remove the barriers to access, mobility, and economic development presented by I-244.

We thank you in advance for your strong consideration of ODOT's and the City of Tulsa's joint application for this RCP planning grant. Thank you 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, reading 'Kirk R. Wester-Rivera'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial 'K'.

Kirk R. Wester-Rivera
Executive Director
Growing Together