



NORTHEASTERN STATE UNIVERSITY
OFFICE of the PRESIDENT

Tuesday, January 7, 2025

Office of the Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Subject: Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant
Request for *Centennial Pathways: Enhancing Community Connectivity on US-69*

Dear Secretary,

We are pleased to write this letter in strong support of the RAISE Grant application submitted by the Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT) for improvements to the existing route along US-69 in Muskogee. This project will increase safety for both motorized and nonmotorized travelers, reconnect the communities on the west and east sides of US-69, and provide a less restrictive roadway for freight movement.

US-69 is a key north-south corridor that is vital to the Muskogee community and the freight network, with over 20,000 kilotons of freight traveling through this corridor every year. The existing roadway requires reconstruction to improve the safety and efficiency for the surrounding community. Another key component of this project is to replace the existing pedestrian bridge over US-69 to accommodate oversized vehicles and constructing sidewalks along the corridor to improve the mobility of nonmotorized travelers.

Thank you for your strong consideration of ODOT's application, *Centennial Pathways: Enhancing Community Connectivity on US-69*, for its contribution to the necessary infrastructure improvements for the safety and connectivity of the surrounding community. Please contact our offices if you need any further assistance as you consider this important proposal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Rodney S. Hanley".

Rodney S. Hanley, Ph.D.