



June 22, 2021

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

Re: Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) funding for the I-44 and US-75 Interchange in Tulsa County

Honorable Secretary Buttigieg,

I am writing in support of the Oklahoma Department of Transportation's application for an Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant for completion of the planned Interstate 44 corridor project. Completion of I-44 corridor expansion would significantly improve access to the heavy industrial complexes in the vicinity of the project, allowing for safer and simpler transport of good and materials. The proposed grant is especially important for the numerous manufacturing companies who must ship their heavy haul equipment and products to market, and to the trucks responsible for this shipment. As a key industry for northeast Oklahoma and our state, it is vital that these manufacturing businesses have an infrastructure network they can rely upon.

This corridor project also protects access to fuel facilities and other refinery-related investments in the area, a key national security issue as we work to protect and preserve core components of our nation's energy system.

The corridor represents a critical piece of our region's transportation network, and a vital link for our state and nation in the transport of goods, services, and capital. We very much appreciate the Oklahoma Department of Transportation's application on behalf of this project, and the opportunity to support it.

Thank you in advance for your consideration. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can provide additional information on the need and support for this project from Tulsa's business community, our trucking industry, or the manufacturers that rely upon this corridor every day.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael S. Neal".

Michael S. Neal, CCE, CCD, HLM
President & CEO
Tulsa Regional Chamber