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February 20, 2019

The Honorable Elaine Chao
Secretary of Transportation
Office of the Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington D.C. 20590

RE: Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) funding for realignment of US-81 in Grady County

Dear Secretary Chao:

The Oklahoma Turnpike Authority (OTA) is in full support of Oklahoma Department of Transportation's (ODOT) INFRA grant application. The proposed improvements to US-81 are both necessary and urgent to provide for motorist safety and to meet strategic goals of both ODOT and OTA.

ODOT's proposed project will realign US-81 approximately 3 miles west of Chickasha, OK in Grady County. The realignment of US-81 and corridor improvements will increase safety and improve capacity that will better facilitate traffic, improve freight movement and improve access to Ft. Sill, one of Southwest Oklahoma's largest employers and key economic drivers for the region.

OTA has completed work on the relocation of the toll plaza on I-44 just south of Chickasha to accommodate the realignment of US-81, at a cost of approximately \$15 million. In addition, OTA has agreed to share the cost with ODOT for the construction of ramps at the interchange of I-44 and the proposed realignment of US-81, at a cost of approximately \$29.8 million.

OTA believes this proposed project supports a network that is critical to Oklahoma's economy, the nation, and the national defense highway system. 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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tim J. Gatz", is written over a light blue circular stamp.

Tim J. Gatz
Executive Director