

SODA

**SOUTHERN OKLAHOMA
DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION**

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May 18, 2022

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

RE: Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant funding for the Priority Improvements for the I-35 Corridor

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of the Southern Oklahoma Development Association (SODA), the ten-county economic development district that includes the I-35 Corridor through south central Oklahoma and its regional planning organization, the South Central Oklahoma Regional Transportation Planning Organization (SCORTPO), we would like to express our support for the Oklahoma Department of Transportation's application for a Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant to fund the Priority Improvements for the I-35 Corridor. The proposed improvements to the I-35 corridor are both necessary and urgent to provide for motorist safety, better facilitate traffic, improve freight movement and meet the strategic goals of both ODOT and the region.

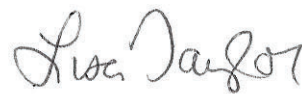
The Priority Improvements for the I-35 Corridor project will provide a vital and necessary transportation enhancement for the region, state and the nation. The proposed project supports a network that is crucial to Oklahoma's and our region's economy and freight movement. We urge you to fully fund this important project.

Thank you for your consideration and please feel free to call on us should you have questions or if you require additional information.

Respectfully submitted,



Steven C. Mills, Ph.D.
Executive Director
SODA



Lisa Taylor
President and Chair
SCORTPO Policy Board

