

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 12, 2022

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am pleased to submit this letter in support of the Oklahoma Department of Transportation's (ODOT) application for a Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant to reconnect neighborhoods in West Tulsa and extend West 51<sup>st</sup> Street.

In an effort to reconnect neighborhoods that were separated by the construction of US-75 in West Tulsa, ODOT proposes to construct a multi-modal extension of West 51<sup>st</sup> Street under US-75, reestablishing this connection and providing additional transportation choices to the residents of these underserved communities.

Improvements to West 51<sup>st</sup> Street will reduce barriers, increase mobility for local and non-motorized users, increase use of lower carbon travel modes, and increase equity and accessibility for travelers. Reconnecting and improving West 51<sup>st</sup> Street across US-75 will provide a safe and affordable mode of travel for the historically disadvantaged communities in the area. With increased mobility, these residents will have increased economic, social, and recreational opportunities, leading to overall improved quality of life.

With the addition of a pedestrian bridge and continuous sidewalk along the 1-mile stretch of West 51<sup>st</sup> Street, this project will link neighborhoods with the Arkansas River Trail, a grocery store, two churches, and the Zarrow Regional Library - access which today is indirect and unsafe. The West 51<sup>st</sup> Street connection will reduce some pedestrian trips by over ¼ mile and will provide a safe, lighted facility separated from traffic. All sidewalks will be ADA compliant and wheelchair accessible.

I thank you in advance for your strong consideration of ODOT's application for this RAISE grant. Please contact Victor Sarmiento, on my staff, at [victor\\_sarmiento@inchofe.senate.gov](mailto:victor_sarmiento@inchofe.senate.gov) if you need any further assistance as you consider this important project.

Sincerely,



James M. Inhofe  
United States Senator