

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

February 27, 2024

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

We are pleased to write this letter in support of the Oklahoma Department of Transportation's (ODOT) application for funding through the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) program. The project would invest in multimodal improvements to the intersection of U.S. Highway 75(US-75) and 81<sup>st</sup> Street in Tulsa.

The *Multimodal Improvements to Safely Connect Tulsa at US-75 and 81<sup>st</sup> Street Interchange* project seeks to address the current challenges presented in the narrow crossing of 81<sup>st</sup> Street under US-75. Current conditions have made this intersection unsuitable for multimodal transportation, particularly with pedestrian and bicycle traffic. 81<sup>st</sup> Street under US-75 has a one-foot shoulder against a retaining wall giving bicycle and pedestrian users very little room to use the facility. There is inadequate room to expand roadway width under the bridge which prevents the addition of multimodal infrastructure.

In an effort to increase safety and accessibility, ODOT has proposed to reconstruct the interchange with expansion of the US-75 bridge and will tie a multi-use trail along the interchange into Tulsa's current trail system plans. A federal investment through RAISE will ensure that ODOT can construct resilient infrastructure that encourages multimodal transportation through the addition of multi-use trails under a new bridge connection on US-75. This network improvement eases the obstacle of crossing US-75 for bicyclist, pedestrians, and other users without vehicles.

Thank you in advance for your strong consideration of ODOT's application for funding through the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) program. Please contact our offices should you need any further assistance as you consider this important proposal.

Sincerely,



James Lankford  
United States Senator

Markwayne Mullin  
United States Senator

Kevin Hern  
Member of Congress