



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

Re: Reconnecting Communities Pilot for the I-244 Study: A Plan to Enhance Mobility and Connectivity in North Tulsa

October 10, 2022

Dear Honorable Secretary Buttigieg:

In the late 1960s, Kendall Whittier was cut in half. Buildings were demolished. Vacancy rates in remaining commercial buildings skyrocketed. Property values plummeted. A district in Tulsa, Oklahoma, lay forgotten about for nearly four decades.

Along with community partners and the support of the City of Tulsa, Kendall Whittier Main Street has been working since 2010 to reverse those changes, bringing in new businesses and revitalizing the district. In 2020, it was named a Great American Main Street by the National Main Street Center.

Despite these successes, we find the effects of I-244 literally cutting the neighborhood in half unsurmountable. The north portion of Kendall Whittier widely differs from the revitalized southern half. It feels like two completely different parts of Tulsa. We know we are not alone as this same thing is happening along I-244 west of us, all the way through downtown Tulsa.

That's why we are submitting this letter in support of the Oklahoma Department of Transportation's (ODOT) and City of Tulsa's joint application for a Reconnecting Communities Pilot (RCP) discretionary planning grant to study I-244 in North Tulsa.

We are among many local partners who have studied and attempted to "take on" this divide quality of life and equity, but have been unable to fully review options with I-244. With RCP grant funding, ODOT and the City of Tulsa will engage these communities to identify the effects of I-244 and provide viable options to mitigate the impacts and increase connectivity across I-244. This Study will identify community connectivity solutions that remove the barriers to access, mobility, and economic development presented by I-244.

Thank you for your consideration of ODOT's and the City of Tulsa's joint application for this RCP planning grant. Please feel free to call on us should you have questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,

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