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October 11, 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: Reconnecting Communities Pilot for the I-244 Study: A Plan to Enhance Mobility and Connectivity in North Tulsa

Honorable Secretary Buttigieg:

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

I-244 is the northern section of the Inner Dispersal Loop around Downtown Tulsa. While this section of Interstate Highway helps mitigate traffic congestion throughout North Tulsa it also has undesirable effects on surrounding communities. Local partners have worked on studies for future planning to improve local mobility, quality of life and equity, but have not had an opportunity 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.

There are two of our 24 locations located within the planned area of study. Customers of the Kendall Whittier Library and the home of the new Rudisill Regional Library in the Greenwood district welcome such a study. Providing convenience for customers to be able to access the three most critical quality of life indications (access to educational information, access to public health information, and access to employment information) at their library is critical to the viability and sustainability of every community.

We thank you in advance for your strong consideration of ODOT's and the City of Tulsa's joint application for this RCP planning grant. Thank you 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 that reads "Kimberly Johnson".

Kimberly Johnson, CEO