CITY OF Tulsa
A New Kind of Energy.

G.T. Bynum
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

July 19, 2018

The Honorable Elaine Chao
Secretary, U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

The City of Tulsa is pleased to submit this application for the **LINK Tulsa: Leveraging Intelligent Network within Key-Corridors Project** under the Better Utilizing Investments for Leveraging Development (BUILD) program. The request is for $6.5 million in federal BUILD grant for the Project, which is matched by $2.5 million in local investment and additionally leverages $500,000 of Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ) federal funding in these corridors. The City of Tulsa will be the lead implementing agency, implementing the traffic signal upgrades along with the required Broadband capacity to connect, in coordination with Metropolitan Tulsa Transit Authority (MTTA), which owns, operates, and maintains the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) routes. Any cost overruns above the allocated amounts for the Project will be covered by the City of Tulsa, from other local sources of funding to improve Traffic and Transit within City of Tulsa.

Currently the two identified corridors suffer from antiquated technology, high traffic, high crash counts, and lack of pedestrian-activated signals. The technology investments of the Project will enhance multi-modal safety, improve traveler reliability, and reduce operating costs. BUILD funds will support the improvement and installation of new technology that will enhance the safety along the Peoria Avenue and Route 66 corridors. The Project includes installing fiber that connects traffic signals and BRT stations; connecting intersections with Transit Signal Priority (TSP) to reduce dwell time and improve traffic flow; installing signals to connect intersections to the Traffic Management Center (TMC); installing real-time arrival infrastructure at BRT stops; and improving crosswalks, including ADA, and audible signals along the corridors.

We greatly appreciate the United States Department of Transportation's consideration of the requested investment in this Project as it is a critical component of the transportation infrastructure in and of significance to the City of Tulsa, the County of Tulsa, and the region.
We believe the Project is a strong candidate for BUILD funding with construction anticipated to begin in June 2019. The project will enhance safety of the system & reduce operating costs; improve reliability for the bus systems & travel time; reduce crashes and injuries in the corridors; enhance passenger experience; and provide safe crossings for pedestrians along the Peoria Avenue and Route 66 corridors.

Please contact Paul Zachary, Director of Engineering Services, at (918) 596-9565 if you have any further questions regarding this Project application.

Best Regards,

G.T. Bynum
Mayor
City of Tulsa

175 E. 2nd St. • Tulsa, OK 74103 • Office 918.596.7411 • Fax 918.596.9010
Email: Mayor@cityoftulsa.org
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METROPOLITAN TULSA TRANSIT AUTHORITY
www.tulsatransit.org
P.O. Box 52488 • Tulsa, OK 74152 • (918) 582-2100 • Fax (918) 582-5209

July 13, 2018

Honorable Elaine Chao
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE
Washington, DC 20590

Re: **Tulsa Multi-Modal Mobility Project- Transportation System Management (TSM) Approach BUILD Application**

Dear Madam Secretary:

The Metropolitan Tulsa Transit Authority is pleased to partner with the City of Tulsa in the attached **Transportation System Management (TSM) Approach** BUILD Application. We have pursued development of these as high-capacity transit corridors since 2012, when FTA funded an Alternatives Analysis to study mode and alignment options.

The Peoria Avenue and Historic Route 66 corridors make up our Aero Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) System, the future backbone of the Metropolitan Tulsa Transit Authority (MTTA). This is evidence of the multi-modal nature these corridors and the need for safe and accessible travel for all users. We are eager to see the many safety and technology upgrades come to these corridors, to ensure effective bus operations, safer environment and crossings for passengers, as well as more predictable and safe traffic patterns.

The Peoria Avenue and Historic Route 66 corridors connect numerous employment, commercial, and cultural destinations including downtown Tulsa, Cherry Street, Brookside, the Pearl District, the International District, University of Tulsa, Tulsa Expo Center, Oral Roberts University, and the Gathering Place Park. This regionally significant investment represents the transformation of two corridors by providing important job-creating opportunities within a 10 minute walk to one in four jobs and one in five residences in the City.

Reinvesting in these areas will improve the safety and effectiveness of the BRT system by better serving our existing customers, attract new riders, create and retain jobs, and effectively integrate all modes of travel.

As a partner with the City of Tulsa, we hope the strategic investment in these corridors will further the City's efforts to revitalize entire neighborhoods and business centers. We look forward to a dynamic partnership with USDOT to advance this project and deliver results for the citizens of Tulsa, serving as a model for the country.

Sincerely,

Ted Rieck, AICP
General Manager

INCOG Regional Partners - Regional Solutions

2 West Second Street Suite 800 | Tulsa, OK 74103 | 918.584.7526 | **www.INCOG.org**

July 17, 2018

Honorable Elaine Chao
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

The Indian Nations Council of Governments (INCOG) is pleased to join the City of Tulsa and Tulsa Transit (MTTA) as a partner to make the *LINK Tulsa: leveraging Intelligent Networks and Key-Corridors: Peoria Avenue and Route 66* a reality. The project enhances safety for all users, helps traffic flow and the ridership experience along the Peoria Avenue and Route 66 bus rapid transit corridors, while reducing delays to residents and commuters, and removing barriers for pedestrians.

INCOG, the regions Metropolitan Planning Organization, INCOG is committed to providing $500,000 of Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality funding (CMAQ) federal funds to these corridors. The project partners seek to modernize the Peoria Avenue and Route 66 corridors by installing fiber/broadband and connecting 42 traffic signals and 60 BRT stations to the City of Tulsa Traffic Management Center. The LINK will enable coordination of signals, utilizing CCTV cameras, transit signal priority (TSP), live video feed, and real-time arrival display infrastructure throughout these corridors to improve traffic flow, reduce time, and enable traffic engineers to manage these priority corridors. In addition to these technology improvements, because of this project, these corridors will receive numerous safety, accessibility, and connectivity improvements to over 60 crosswalks; including ADA and audible signal improvements.

The Peoria Avenue and Route 66 corridors connect a diverse range of jobs, incomes, housing, education, quality of life and healthcare services. They are truly vital to ensuring the City of Tulsa continues to be a safe and economic competitive.

We hope USDOT will recognize the strong partnerships we have developed over the decades between the MPO and the City of Tulsa as a model by investing in this project and making *LINK Tulsa: leveraging Intelligent Networks and Key-Corridors: Peoria Avenue and Route 66* a reality. We look forward to partnering with USDOT to move the project forward.

Sincerely,

Rich Brierre
Executive Director

OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
J. Michael Patterson, Executive Director
200 N.E. 21st Street
Oklahoma City, OK 73105-3204
(405) 522-1800

July 6, 2018

Honorable Elaine Chao
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE
Washington, DC 20590

RE: City of Tulsa, *Tulsa Multi-Modal Mobility Project- Transportation System Management (TSM) Approach* BUILD application

Dear Secretary Chao:

The Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT) is pleased to submit a letter of support for the **Tulsa Multi-Modal Mobility Project- Transportation System Management (TSM) Approach** BUILD Application. The City of Tulsa, Tulsa Transit & INCOG as the Metropolitan Planning Organization are to be commended for their efforts to create a safe, connected, and economically viable city through this investment.

The Peoria Avenue and Historic Route 66 corridors are vital pieces to the city's transportation system. Their improvements and ultimate success are essential to increasing the safety and economic competitiveness of the region, improving job access with connecting the rural fringe to the core urban areas, and providing accessible services to elderly and veterans with connections to hospitals and education institutions. Key activity centers along the proposed corridor improvements include downtown Tulsa, University of Tulsa, Hillcrest Medical Center, Tulsa State Fair Grounds, Cherry Street, Oral Roberts University and the Gathering Place for Tulsa (regional destination).

ODOT has worked with INCOG, the designated MPO for Tulsa, and leaders in Tulsa metropolitan area on numerous federally funded projects in recent years. ODOT is committed to investing in a transportation network that includes a diverse portfolio of modal options. This project furthers our goal of safely reducing congestion and promoting better air quality in our metropolitan areas in the State of Oklahoma. We hope USDOT will recognize the need of improved capital infrastructure for high priority Transit in the Tulsa Metropolitan Area as proposed and make this project a reality.

Sincerely,

J. Michael Patterson
Executive Director

TULSA REGIONAL CHAMBER

June 11, 2018

Honorable Elaine Chao
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

We are pleased to submit a letter of support for the Tulsa Multi-Modal Mobility Project- Transportation System Management (TSM) Approach. In 2011, INCOG, the region's MPO, developed a plan for an improved transit system in the Tulsa metropolitan area. The Tulsa Multi-Modal Mobility Project is supported by recommendations in the Fast Forward Regional Transit System Plan. In 2016, Tulsa's voters overwhelmingly approved a referendum to support permanent transit funding, making them the first city in Oklahoma history to have dedicated transit operating funding. The Chamber enthusiastically supports moving forward with the Transportation System Management (TSM) Approach.

This system contains both a historical icon and the highest performing route in the Metropolitan Tulsa Transit Authority (MTTA) system. It serves residents, jobs, medical, and education opportunities by connecting diverse populations with downtown, major education institutions, four major parks, Tulsa County Fair Grounds, and numerous retail business districts. This project is essential to increasing the environmental sustainability of the city by providing connections to the city's key economic activity centers.

The Tulsa Multi-Modal Mobility Project will implement numerous safety improvements throughout key corridors in the City of Tulsa. This investment would represent a transformation in mobility service, and address one of our region's key and economic development barriers by creating safe and efficient transportation options for our residents.

As a regional chamber of commerce, we view increased safe and accessible transportation options as a key economic development strategy to improve our citizens' access to job opportunities and strengthen our community's health and quality of life. The absence of alternative transportation opportunities has been a persistent barrier for our citizens: so much so that we have made increased transit use and walkability a central goal of our economic development strategy.

We fully support the City of Tulsa and Tulsa Transit in their effort to create a more livable, walkable, and economically viable city through the Tulsa Multi-Modal Mobility Project. We hope USDOT will recognize the need of improved transit service and partner with Tulsa Transit to make this project a reality.



Michael S. Neal
President and CEO
Tulsa Regional Chamber

City of Tulsa

July 17, 2018

Honorable Elaine Chao
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao,

The Downtown Coordinating Council (DCC) is pleased to submit a letter of support for the **Tulsa Multi-Modal Mobility Project- Transportation System Management (TSM) Approach**. In 2011, the Indian Nations Council of Government (INCOG), the region's MPO, developed a plan for an improved transit system in the Tulsa metropolitan area. The Fast Forward Regional Transit System Plan, recommended this system as the region's most viable urban corridors.

The Downtown Coordinating Council is an advisory board comprised of downtown property owners, government officials, and business owners that provide support and advice for planning and management of improvement, maintenance, and marketing of downtown Tulsa. The DCC works to actively develop Downtown Tulsa as a vibrant center of commerce, arts, entertainment, and education.

The DCC is committed to furthering the vibrancy and economic health of Downtown Tulsa through partnerships and commerce. We believe this project with further increased investment in Downtown Tulsa and spur continued economic vitality for generations to come, through providing downtown access to the entire region.

We fully support the City of Tulsa in their effort to create a more livable, walkable, and economically viable city through the Tulsa Multi-modal Mobility Project. We hope USDOT will recognize the need of improved transit service and partner with City of Tulsa to make this project a reality.

Sincerely,

Libby Billings
Chairman

Downtown Coordinating Council
City of Tulsa
175 East 2nd Street
Tulsa, Oklahoma 74103

TULSA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

July 13, 2018

Honorable Elaine Chao
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE
Washington, DC 20590

Secretary Chao:

We support the implementation of the **Tulsa Multi-Modal Mobility Project- Transportation System Management (TSM) Approach** because of the transformational potential and leveraged support it will gain from our collective investments in entities located along the Peoria Avenue and Route 66 corridors. This local, voter-supported project will serve dozens of nonprofits and social service providers that out foundations have partnered with for years, and in some cases, decades.

Tulsa Community Foundation includes many partners which are highly invested in the Peoria Avenue and Route 66 corridors. Located along these crosstown corridors are grocery stores; places of worship; nonprofits providing prison re-entry services, foster care, mental health, teenage pregnancy, workforce, and youth development programs; banks; early childhood and elementary schools; universities; health centers, including one focused on our substantial Native American population; and, current and potential places of private employment and state agencies assisting families living in poverty. These corridors are vitally important to the economic and social health of Tulsa and the surrounding region.

The federal government's partnership in this project, along with those of us in Tulsa, will create opportunities for those with the greatest need in Tulsa and spur increased investment through the Tulsa Multi-Modal Mobility Project. Thank you for your consideration of this application.

Sincerely,

Phil Lakin, Jr.
CEO, Tulsa Community Foundation
Trustee, George Kaiser Family Foundation

Ken Levit
Executive Director and Trustee,
George Kaiser Family Foundation

7030 South Yale Avenue • Suite 600 • Tulsa, OK 74136 • Phone 918-494-8823 • Fax 918-494-9826 • www.TulsaCF.org

Lobeck Taylor
FAMILY FOUNDATION

July 10, 2018

Honorable Elaine Chao
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

We support the implementation of the **Tulsa Multi-Modal Mobility Project - Transportation System Management (TSM) Approach** because of the transformational potential and leveraged support it will gain from our collective investments in entities located along the Route 66 corridor.

This project will serve numerous nonprofits and social service providers along the Historic Route 66 corridor. In addition to these, located along this crosstown corridor are grocery stores, places of worship, nonprofits providing prison re-entry services, as well as foster care, mental health, teenage pregnancy, workforce and youth development programs, banks, schools, universities, health centers, as well as current and potential places of private employment and state agencies dealing with poverty. The Historic Route 66 Corridor is vitally important to the economic and social health of our city.

The Lobeck Taylor Family Foundation (LTFF) is heavily invested in the future of the Historic Route 66 corridor. A recent example being the announcement of plans for Mother Road Market, a vibrant community space focused on entrepreneurship and business startups in the culinary arts. Mother Road Market is set to open summer of 2018 and is a prime illustration of the **private investment and economic revitalization** occurring along the Historic Route 66 transportation corridor.

We support the city of Tulsa in Tulsa Multi-Modal Mobility Project. The federal government's partnership in this project, along with those of us in Tulsa, will create opportunities for those with the greatest need in Tulsa and spur increased investment along the Historic Route 66 and Peoria Ave. corridors. Thank you for your consideration of this application.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Frame Ellison
President and CEO
Lobeck Taylor Family Foundation

1124 S. Lewis Avenue, Tulsa, OK 74104 | (918) 583-2955

TRANS
PORTATION
ADVISORY
BOARD

Honorable Elaine Chao
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE
Washington, DC 20590

July 9, 2018

Dear Secretary Chao,

I write as chair of the City of Tulsa Transportation Advisory Board in strong support of the application by Tulsa's Metropolitan Tulsa Transit Authority for BUILD funding of our city's **Tulsa Multi-Modal Mobility Project- Transportation System Management (TSM) Approach**.

In 2011, the Indian Nations Council of Government (INCOG), the region's MPO, developed a plan for an improved transit system in the Tulsa metropolitan area. The Fast Forward Regional Transit System Plan, recommended this system as the region's most viable urban corridors.

We at the Transportation Advisory Board strongly believe that this project is crucial to the development of a viable, healthy and equitable transit system in which people have a real choice of how to get around the city, and in which they are able to do so easily.

One in every five Tulsans lives and 25% of the city's jobs are directly connected to these corridors. The commitment to provide safe, reliable, and accessible transportation throughout these vital corridor will therefore deliver a significant return on investment. Separately the city's planners are already working on zoning solutions to stimulate more walkable neighborhoods and increase population density along the route. These help to maximize the return on tax-payer dollars.

These initiatives and others will help to fulfill Tulsa's much-updated Comprehensive Plan, adopted in 2010, whose purpose is to restore a more compact, healthier, more walkable and more prosperous city.

We very much hope USDOT will recognize the strong case for partnering with the City of Tulsa and to make this project a reality.

Respectfully.

John H. Shivel, II
Chair, City of Tulsa Transportation Advisory Board

2317 South Jackson Avenue • Tulsa, OK 74107 • Office 918.596.9240 • Fax 918.596.9708
www.cityoftulsa.org

Honorable Elaine Chao
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE
Washington, DC 20590

a connected Tulsa for all

Dear Secretary Chao:

The Accessible Transportation Coalition is pleased to submit a letter in strong support of the application by Tulsa's Metropolitan Tulsa Transit Authority for BUILD funding of our city's Tulsa Multi-Modal Mobility Project- Transportation System Management (TSM) Approach.

The Historic Route 66 - Peoria Avenue transportation corridor includes the highest performing transit route in Tulsa. It serves residents, jobs and education opportunities by connecting diverse populations with downtown, major education institutions, four major parks, and numerous retail business districts. The Peoria BRT project will place a high-quality, high-frequency bus service within a ten minute walk of 1 out of every 4 jobs and 1 out of 5 residents. This investment would represent a transformation in transit service to create ladders of opportunity for residents.

These corridors connect the census tract with the *lowest* income in Tulsa County to the census tract with the second *highest* income in the county. The difference in household income levels along the corridor differs by 17x. The Tulsa Multi-Modal Mobility Project- Transportation System Management (TSM) Approach project is essential to increasing the economic competitiveness of the region by providing connections from neighborhoods to the city's key business and activity centers including downtown Tulsa, the University of Tulsa, Hillcrest Medical Center, Cherry Street, the International District, Brookside, the Pearl District, Oral Roberts University, and the Gathering Place Park.

The project is pivotal in making out city more accessible for all its residents. We fully support Tulsa Transit and the city of Tulsa in their effort to create a more livable, walkable, and economically viable city through this investment.

The Accessible Transportation Coalition is committed to advocating for a city that has accessible transportation for all its residents. We believe this project is the beginning of a viable, healthy transit system that will move us toward that goal. We hope USDOT will recognize the need of improved transit service and partner with the city of Tulsa to make this project a reality.

Sincerely,

Isaiah Persson
Chair, Accessible Transportation Coalition

Accessible Transportation Coalition - www.connectedforall.org
2 West 2nd Street #800 Tulsa, OK 74103 (918) 584-7526

The Center For Individuals With Physical Challenges

Creating a community that fosters hope, health and humanity

PARALYMPIC SPORT CLUB TULSA

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Lori A. Long, MHR, CFRE
Executive Director

July 6, 2018

Honorable Elaine Chao
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

The Center for Individuals with Physical Challenges is pleased to submit a letter of support for the **Tulsa Multi-Modal Mobility Project- Transportation System Management (TSM) Approach**. In 2011, the Indian Nations Council of Government (INCOG), the region's MPO, developed a plan for an improved transit system in the Tulsa metropolitan area. The Fast Forward Regional Transit System Plan recommended this system as the region's most viable urban corridors.

The Center for Individuals with Physical Challenges is committed to advocating for a city that has safe and accessible transportation for all its residents. We believe this project is the beginning of a safe, viable, and healthy transportation system that will move us toward that goal.

The Center for Individuals with Physical Challenges is a community recreation center in Tulsa serving over 1,000 individuals with a variety of physical disabilities. We are located along the historic Route 66 and are currently expanding our campus along the corridor. This project would be a key component to our clients utilizing safe, effective and efficient transportation.

As a community partner, I have become well acquainted with members of their administrative staff and as well as with various areas of their operations. We fully support the City of Tulsa and their partnership with Tulsa Transit and INCOG in their effort to create a more safe, accessible, and economically viable city through the Tulsa Multi-modal Mobility Project. We hope USDOT will recognize the need of improved transit service and partner with Tulsa Transit to make this project a reality.

Sincerely,

Lori A. Long, MHR, CFRE
Executive Director

LIVE UNITED
United Way
Tulsa Area United Way Partner Agency

Kendall Whittier Main Street
2205 East Admiral Boulevard
Tulsa, Oklahoma 74110
918-633-1934

July 12, 2018

Honorable Elaine Chao
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

We are pleased to submit a letter of support for the **Tulsa Multi-Modal Mobility Project-Transportation System Management (TSM) Approach** BUILD Application.

This project contains significant improvements to both a historical and national icon in Route 66 and the most heavily used transit route in the Metropolitan Tulsa Transit Authority (MTTA) network (in addition to heavy traffic volumes) in Peoria Avenue. These serve residents, jobs, medical, and education opportunities by connecting diverse populations with the retail business districts of Kendall Whittier, Brookside, Cherry Street, the Pearl district, and the International District, as well as downtown, major education institutions, four major parks, and Tulsa County Fair Grounds. These corridors combined provide access to 1 out of every 4 jobs and 1 out of 5 residents within a ten-minute walk.

This investment would result in a transformational change in the city's transportation system, and address one of our region's core workforce and economic development barriers by creating safe and accessible opportunities for residents. We view increased safe transportation options as a key economic development strategy to improve our citizens' access to job opportunities and strengthen our community's health and quality of life.

Kendall Whittier Main Street fully supports the City of Tulsa in their effort to create a safe and economically viable city through this investment. We hope USDOT will recognize the need of improved transit service and partner with the City of Tulsa to make this project a reality.

Best,

Ed Sharrer
Executive Director

Tulsa City-County LIBRARY
400 Civic Center • Tulsa, Oklahoma 74103-3830
918.549.7323 (ph) • 918.549.7379 (f) • www.TulsaLibrary.org

July 10, 2018

Honorable Elaine Chao
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Mr. Secretary:

The Tulsa City-County Library is pleased to submit a letter of support for the **Tulsa Multi-Modal Mobility Project- Transportation System Management (TSM) Approach** BUILD Application. In 2011, the Indian Nations Council of Government (INCOG), the region's MPO, developed a plan for an improved transit system in the Tulsa metropolitan area. The Fast Forward Regional Transit System Plan, recommended this system as the region's most viable urban corridors.

Bus Rapid Transit System provides direct access to numerous libraries, each serving diverse populations. These libraries offer free meeting rooms for community groups and organizations; public access computers and WiFi; business centers for copying, scanning, and faxing; children's programs, and collections of bestsellers, resource materials, CD's DVD's and children's materials – all available for check-out.

Among these is the Central Library (downtown) and the Rudisill Regional Library. The Rudisill Regional Library is the home of the African-American Resource Center providing current and comprehensive resource materials on the culture and history of African-Americans. The Central Library is in the heart of downtown Tulsa and the hub of the library system. After an extensive, three-year renovation, Central Library prepared to meet the communities needs of the 21st Century. It includes a technology-intensive creative lab, event space, study and meeting rooms, and an Ideation Education Center for creative and interactive activities.

We fully support Tulsa Transit and the City of Tulsa in their effort to create a more safe, accessible, and economically viable city through the Tulsa Multi-Modal Mobility Project. We hope USDOT will recognize the need of improved transit service and partner with Tulsa Transit to make this project a reality.

The Tulsa City-County Library is committed to advocating for a city that has accessible transportation for all its residents. We believe this project is the beginning of a safe and economically viable transportation system that will move us toward that goal.

Sincerely,

Kimberly Johnson
Chief Executive Officer

JAMES M. INHOFE
OKLAHOMA

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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3603

COMMITTEES:
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SMALL BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

July 13, 2018

The Honorable Elaine Chao
Secretary
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

I am pleased to submit a letter of support for Tulsa's Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) application for safety improvements and transportation infrastructure for the Peoria Avenue and Route-66/21st Street corridors in Tulsa. This project is the essence of what the BUILD program is intended for -- to build infrastructure for the next century to meet the demands for safe transportation with flexible, scalable upgrades to specific corridors.

As the former mayor of Tulsa, I can attest to the significance the Peoria Avenue and the Route-66/21st Street corridors have for the economic vitality of the city and region. The arterial roadway corridors connect numerous neighborhoods with downtown Tulsa, with institutions of higher education and numerous public schools, various business and employment centers, and two major regional hospitals.

In approving local funding, Tulsa residents understood that the Peoria Avenue and Route-66/21st Street corridors are essential for providing viable transportation alternatives to connect the city with its most important economic activity centers. This investment will improve traffic safety for all users, traffic flow and significantly transform Tulsa's transit service in ways that greatly enhance economic opportunities for our residents and provide businesses, small and large, ready access to an educated, highly-motivated workforce.

I know you will agree our nation's transportation infrastructure needs continued investment to remain economically competitive. I fully support the City of Tulsa in its endeavor to transform the Peoria Avenue and Route-66 corridors with BUILD's investments, and I hope the Department of Transportation partners with Tulsa to move the project forward. Please let me know if I or my staff can be of any further assistance as you consider this exceptional project.

Thank you for your consideration of this nationally recognized and regionally important project.

Sincerely,



James M. Inhofe
United States Senator