



March 3, 2021

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

RE: Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) funding for the I-44 & US-75 Interchange/Corridor Improvement Projects

Honorable Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of the Indian Nations Council of Governments, the MPO for the Tulsa Metropolitan Region, I am writing to voice our organization's strong support of the Oklahoma Department of Transportation's (ODOT) application for an Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) grant to assist with the I-44 & US-75 Interchange and Corridor Improvement Projects. The proposed improvements to I-44, are both necessary and urgent to provide for motorist safety, better facilitate traffic and improve freight movement and to meet the strategic goals of both ODOT and the region.

The I-44 Corridor is the main artery for the State's flow of freight, a part of the designated National Freight Network, connecting multiple states. Regionally, the scope of the grant request for reconstruction of the interchange covers critical parts of two of the expressways improving access and mobility to many low to moderate income individuals, and minority populations. Design elements for the project clearly incorporated local stakeholder input and represents an excellent example of context sensitive design with respect to the adjacent land uses including the Turkey Mountain Urban Wilderness area as well as the regional YMCA facility.

The INCOG strongly supports the interchange and corridor improvements for its vital contribution to the region and the state. We strongly urge your support of full funding for the project. Thank you for your consideration and please feel free to call on us should you have questions or if you require additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rich Brierre".

Rich Brierre  
Executive Director