



Thursday, May 12, 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: Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant funding for the Grady County US 81 Realignment Project

Honorable Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of the Southwest Oklahoma Regional Transportation Planning Organization (SORTPO) I am writing to voice our organization's staunch support of the Oklahoma Department of Transportation's (ODOT) application for a Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant to assist with the Grady County US-81 Realignment project. The proposed improvements are both necessary and urgent to provide for motorist safety, improve freight movement and to meet the strategic goals both ODOT and the region. Improvement to this freight corridor will reduce congestion, improve the efficiency of the freight highway network, and strengthen the ability of the rural region to access regional, state, and national markets. The 2040 Grady County Long Range Transportation Plan identifies the US 81 Realignment as a project.

SORTPO strongly supports US 81 Realignment project and recognizes the significance of rural project's impact to expansion and improvement of highway freight movement and economic benefits arising from such improvement. The proposed project supports a network that is critical to Oklahoma's economy and freight movement. 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,

Julie Sanders

Julie Sanders
Director of Transportation
Southwest Oklahoma Regional Transportation Planning Organization
420 Sooner Dr.
Burns Flat, OK 73624
Office – (580) 562-5010
Email – Julie@SWODA.org