



**NORMAN
REGIONAL**
Health System

901 N. Porter Avenue
Norman, OK 73071

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Friday, May 28, 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: Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) funding for the SH-37 BNSF Railroad Crossing Project

Honorable Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of the City of Moore, OK I am writing to voice our organization's strong support of the Oklahoma Department of Transportation's (ODOT) application for a Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant to assist with the SH-37 BNSF Railroad Crossing Project. The proposed improvements to the SH-37 BNSF Railroad Crossing 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.

As President and CEO of Norman Regional Health System, owner and operator of the healthcare facility, Norman Regional Moore, and the ambulance provider for the City of Moore, I strongly support the SH-37 BNSF Railroad Crossing Project for its vital contribution to the region, state and nation.

With train tracks running through the heart of the city, dividing east from west, 9-1-1 emergency response times are a grave concern. Currently, if a train is stopped on the tracks across 4th Street, our EMSStat ambulances have to fight traffic to get a mile south to a heavily congested 19th Street underpass. In one of Oklahoma's fastest growing towns, this issue is a public safety hazard and needs to be addressed for the health of citizens living and working in our vibrant community.

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, appearing to read "Richie Splitt".

Richie Splitt

President & CEO

Norman Regional Health System