



October 10, 2022

To the U.S. Department of Transportation:

Tulsa Economic Development Corporation (TEDC) is honored to support the Oklahoma Department of Transportation in its pursuit of Reconnecting Communities Pilot (RCP) discretionary grant funding. As an initiative to empower communities that have historically been disconnected from economic opportunities by transportation infrastructure, the Reconnecting Communities initiative is crucial to uniting our city so that all may have equitable access to economic opportunity.

Founded in 1979, TEDC promotes and sustains small business growth in Tulsa. In the past five years, our organization has provided or secured more than \$150 million to help over 800 small businesses start, expand, or sustain operations, impacting thousands of jobs. Using public and private sources, TEDC has long provided critical support to minority entrepreneurs and has helped development efforts in places that have been historically overlooked, like the Shoppes on Peoria at East Reading Street and North Peoria Avenue in north Tulsa, where TEDC has developed office and retail space to encourage growth, along with a new grocery store to create food security. The development also functions as an incubator for franchises and businesses owned primarily by Black Tulsans who call this area home.

TEDC believes that Tulsa must address all barriers that have long inhibited the ability of the north community to thrive. Addressing certain manmade physical barriers is long overdue. This grant opportunity can help us squarely face this challenge and TEDC fully supports the request for a Reconnecting Communities Pilot (RCP) discretionary grant. No other American city is more deserving of this grant than the City of Tulsa as it strives to create diverse, equitable and inclusive growth by removing physical, social and emotional barriers to economic prosperity.

As Tulsa's premier Community Development Financial Institution, our work closely aligns with this initiative, and I am grateful to offer this letter of support. If you need additional information, feel free to contact me at rose@tedcnet.com or via my mobile phone at (918) 830-4381. I'm available to help in any way possible.

Sincerely,

Rose Washington Jones
CEO