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September 21, 2017

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

RE: Oklahoma's I-40 and Douglas Interchange Reconstruction and related interstate widening in Oklahoma County near Tinker Air Force Base.

Honorable Elaine Chao:

First, congratulations on your appointment and being the first Asian American woman to be appointed to a President's cabinet. Your heart for people, safety, and America have been prevalent through out your career. We are lucky to have you.

I am writing to you in support of the Infrastructure for Rebuilding America Grant application submitted by the Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT). As presented, the project will include the reconstruction of an outdated interchange at Interstate 40 (I-40) and Douglas Boulevard, as well as the widening of the interstate from four to six lanes from Industrial Road east for five and one-half miles.

This project has been needed for a number of years. As you know, I-40 is a major east-west transportation corridor through Oklahoma and the country. Midwest City is located on the north side of this corridor and is witness to its importance to the Oklahoma City metropolitan area's transportation system. This project will improve mobility within the metropolitan area for the traveling public, ease congestion and enhance the capacity of the I-40 corridor to facilitate freight movement.

Tinker Air Force Base (Tinker) is located on the east side of the Oklahoma City metropolitan area and I-40 is its northern boundary for approximately four miles. Tinker is one of only three Air Logistics Centers in the country and is vital to our nation's defense. As Oklahoma's largest employer, it is essential that this transportation link to Tinker be improved in order to insure that employees, goods and services can be efficiently delivered to and from the base. Midwest City confirms the critical need for improvement to the I-40 corridor and reconstruction of the interchange that provides primary access to Tinker. We look forward to working with ODOT on this project.

I hope you look favorably upon the application submitted by our Department of Transportation. ODOT has an impressive record of accomplishing the projects it sets forth, in that projects are done in a timely manner, on budget, and of very high quality. This project has the utmost support of the City of Midwest City and local leaders.

Sincerely,

Matthew D. Dukes II,
Mayor of Midwest City, Oklahoma