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February 7, 2020

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: Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) funding for the I-40/Douglas Interchange Reconstruction and related interstate widening, Oklahoma County, Oklahoma

Honorable Secretary Chao:

On behalf of the City of Midwest City, I am writing to you in strong 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 As presented, the project will include the reconstruction of an outdated interchange at Interstate 40 (I-40) and Douglas Boulevard, as well as the widening of the interstate from four to six lanes from Industrial Road east for five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. 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 State of Oklahoma and the Oklahoma City metropolitan area transportation systems. These proposed improvements are both necessary and urgent to provide for motorist safety, better facilitate traffic and improve freight moment along this corridor.

In addition, Tinker Air Force Base (Tinker) is located on the corridor's southern 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 also essential that the capacity of this corridor be improved to insure that employees, goods and services can continue to be efficiently delivered to and from the base.

I hope you look favorably upon the application submitted by the Oklahoma Department of Transportation. ODOT has an impressive record of accomplishing the projects it sets forth, completing them in a timely manner, on budget and of very high quality. This project supports a transportation network that is critical to Oklahoma's economy and freight movement. It has the utmost support of the City of Midwest City and local leaders. Thank you.

Sincerely,

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