



July 9, 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 in Cleveland County

Honorable Secretary Buttigieg:

The Association of Central Oklahoma Governments (ACOG) is pleased to support the Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT) application for a Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant to assist with SH-37 & BNSF Railroad Crossing in Cleveland County. The proposed improvements are necessary and urgent to increase safety, better facilitate traffic and freight movement, and to meet the strategic goals of ODOT and the region.

ODOT's project proposes to create grade separation between the existing rail line and SH-37, greatly reducing conflict between freight and vehicular traffic. The improvements will increase the efficiency and reliability in the corridor, alleviating congestion in a region that is on the verge of violating the Clean Air Act's 8-Hour Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). The proposed project also includes a pedestrian bridge over SH-37 and a multimodal path along the corridor. These components will enhance transportation equity in the area by connecting low and moderate income housing north of the project to the City of Moore's Central Park and shopping to the south.

Much of ACOG's work is focused on developing a regional, multimodal transportation vision that supports economic growth, enhances livability, and improves the efficiency and safety of the Central Oklahoma transportation network today and into the future, and this important regional project meets all those objectives. We are hopeful that ODOT's application will be awarded funding to allow these much needed transportation improvements to occur in the region.

Thank you for your consideration and please feel free to call on us should you have questions or if you require additional information.

Sincerely,

Mark W. Sweeney, AICP  
Executive Director

Chair  
**Steven J. Gentling**  
Guthrie Mayor

Vice-Chair  
**Josh Moore**  
Edmond Councilmember

Secretary/Treasurer  
**Cathy Cummings**  
The Village Councilmember

Executive Director  
**Mark W. Sweeney, AICP**

association of central oklahoma governments

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