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Saturday, February 24, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
U.S. Secretary of Transportation  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE. Washington, D.C. 20590

RE: Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant opportunity for the **Hochatown Community Access and Pedestrian Safety Project**.

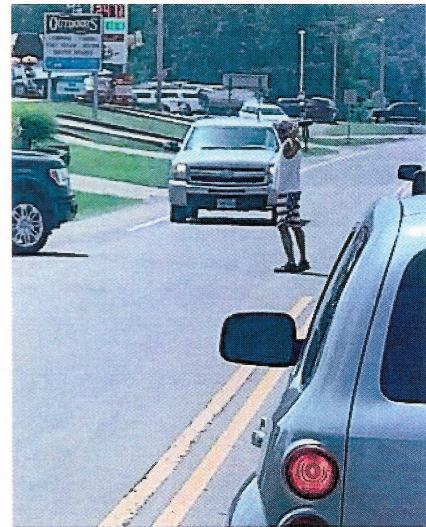
Honorable Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing to support the Oklahoma Department of Transportation's (ODOT) application for the RAISE Grant for Hochatown Community Access and Pedestrian Safety Project.

US-259 is the *only highway* through Hochatown. US-259 is used by the logging and timber industry and for interstate shipping. Combine the through traffic with recreational vehicles, tourists towing trailers with boats and ATVs. Mix in happy pedestrians wearing flip-flops and dragging a child or two by the hand as they attempt to bravely cross US-259. As the volunteer Mayor of Hochatown, I hear many concerns regarding traffic safety and the desire to maintain our country way of life. Thoughtful and safe pedestrian access would help those concerns.

This project will upgrade a six-mile section of US-259 in rural, southeast Oklahoma. Hochatown is steadily improving our rural economy by attracting millions of tourists to the area. Infrastructure has not kept up.

Hochatown has vacation property owners from 40 of the 50 states! We have nationwide support for our tiny town of 242 residents. Highway improvement would make a lot of people happy as they enjoy cultural and eco-tourism. See more trees, gaze at the stars, and learn about the Indian Territory.



Traffic control on US Hwy 259, Hochatown, OK.

Thank you for your consideration and please visit us in Hochatown, Oklahoma.

Sincerely,

Dian Jordan, Ph.D.