

ALTUS MILITARY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

4/27/2020

Elaine Chao, Secretary US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington DC 20590

RE: City of Altus, Oklahoma FY2020 Build Grant Application

Dear Ms.Chao:

The Altus economic loop will have significant local and regional impact to the city of Altus, Jackson County and surrounding region. The proposed improvements will improve the condition and reliability of roadways that serve passenger and freight traffic and contribute to the economic viability of southwestern Oklahoma.

Jackson County is the home to Altus Air Force Base. This Air Force Base is the only full time training unit for C17 Globemaster III, KC 135 Stratotanker and KC 46 Pegasus. Activated as a multi flight training school in 1943, Altus Air Force Base has been the cornerstone of Southwestern Oklahoma for over 75 years. With an average of over 300 days of weather conducive to flying each year, a generally flat landscape and few obstructions, the base is ideally situated for young airman to hone their flying skills. Over the past seven decades, the Base has evolved to become the premier air mobility training location in the United States Air Force.

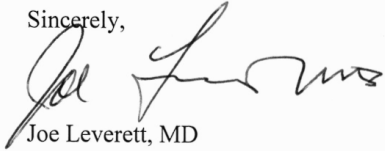
Altus Air Force Base is located on the eastern edge of Altus, Oklahoma and Sooner Drop Zone is located approximately 30 miles west of Altus. This national treasure used for the C17 Globemaster to do air drop is fundamental to the training of this mobility asset. As you can understand, these multisized and weighted palates have to be transported back to Altus Air Force Base for repeated use in this training mission.

Providing an improved route on the west side of Altus will provide a resilient, reliable roadway that will be protected against flooding and continue this important mission for the United States Air Force. The improved infrastructure will provide stability and certainty for this vital mission of the C17 Globemaster training that is only available at Altus Air Force Base, Oklahoma.

I hope you can see that the Altus economic loop not only will help the economic impact of Altus and our agriculture manufacturing, but also support Altus Air Force Base and its important mission. The Base does have a \$400 million economic impact to our area.

Thank you for your time and support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joe Leverett". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Joe" being particularly prominent.

Joe Leverett, MD
Chairman
Altus Military Affairs Committee

JLL/slf