

Senator Brent Howard
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Oklahoma State Senate
State of Oklahoma

April 30, 2020

Ms. Elaine Chao, Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

RE: City of Altus, Oklahoma FY 2020 BUILD Grant Application

Madam Secretary:

It is with great humility that I write you today as the local State Senator in support of the City of Altus, Oklahoma's BUILD Grant Application. I have been a resident of Altus for most of my life, having chosen to come back to grow my community and family here after pursuing opportunities in urban areas. I am proud of what Altus provides to its residents, the agriculture and military sectors, and the United States of America. I am also excited about what can be provided further.

The City of Altus is applying for this grant to improve conditions, flow, and infrastructure around the City to serve two main industries: Cotton production/warehousing and general transportation. Currently, about 20% of the nation's cotton production comes through Altus for storage and marketing. The trucks carrying these bales basically have to go through the middle of the town of 20,000+ residents, straining traffic and infrastructure on the city streets. Likewise, if any traffic comes from the west and wants to go north or south on Highway 283, it must also travel through downtown Altus.

The proposed loop around Altus, which will depend on receiving the BUILD Grant, will alleviate much of this truck traffic. Such action will then make the city streets safer for families, including many of the U.S. Air Force stationed here. Also, the increased efficiency of the bypass will allow for future expansion of our industrial parks on the outside of Altus.

If the purpose of the BUILD Grant is to Better Utilize Investments to Leverage Development, then I believe this project should be a high priority for the U.S. Department of Transportation. Our rural area is in desperate need of this loop to improve access for industry to thrive and develop, while also providing for more safety to our city streets. The potential for future return is immense and I am glad to be a part of this City and area as we prepare for growth.

I would be happy to answer any questions or further discuss this project or others within my Senate District.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Brent S. Howard".

Brent S. Howard
BSH/ms