



July 12, 2018

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

Dear Secretary Chao:


The City of Pawhuska supports the Osage Nation's leadership in continuing the Osage Prairie Trail from Skiatook to Pawhuska.

Pawhuska is located in the heart of Osage County and is considered the gateway to the Tallgrass Prairie Preserve. According to the U.S. Census, in 2017, the estimated population of Pawhuska was 3,377.

As a rural community, we would greatly benefit from this multi-use trail passing through our town. Of the three main roads that go through Pawhuska, two of them are two-lane highways. These highways are dangerous for our residents who, out of necessity, sometimes have to walk or ride a bicycle on them. Osage County is a rural county, and therefore some of the housing developments are just outside Pawhuska City limits, and the only connection to vital services such as grocery stores and schools is via these two-lane highways.

In addition, this multi-use trail will assist with creating an eco-tourism economy for Pawhuska. We already have the Tallgrass Prairie Preserve just to our north and the Osage Nation's eco-park east of town. Tourists will be starting their eco-vacations in Tulsa and ride the trail through rural Osage County to the terminus in Pawhuska.

Sincerely,

  
Larry Eulert  
City Manager, City of Pawhuska