

Submitted by
*Indian Nations
Council of Governments*



**TRAVEL
WITH
CARE**



**Letters of
Support**



September 14, 2022

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Office of the Secretary
U.S. Department of
Transportation 1200 New
Jersey Ave. SE Washington,
DC 20590

RE: **Travel with Care – Tulsa**: Safe Streets for All grant application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

The Indian Nations Council of Governments (INCOG), the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Tulsa area is pleased to submit this application for the multi-jurisdictional Safe Streets for All grant: **Travel with Care – Tulsa**. The INCOG Local Road Safety Plan determined that creating safe streets involves the systemwide implementation of appropriate signage, a predictable systemwide standard for striping and speeds, and installing visible STOP controlled intersections that are low-cost and highly effective as proven methods to reduce crashes. The wide stakeholder involvement in developing the plan, cooperation from the Oklahoma Department of Transportation, and technical resources of the Federal Highway Administration reinforced this approach as the most effective means to achieve the targets adopted by INCOG.

The INCOG Board has set the target to reduce fatalities and serious injuries by 25% within the region by the year 2030 while recognizing the goal for Vision Zero for serious injuries and fatalities. This application is the first step toward implementing this comprehensive, coordinated approach to mitigating crashes with a thorough data-driven strategy.

The **Travel with Care – Tulsa** application represents a multijurisdictional effort lead by INCOG in collaboration with six local government joint applicants in the region. The overall program includes both implementation and planning components. The joint applicants include Tulsa County, Wagoner County, and the Cities of Tulsa, Broken Arrow, Jenks, and Owasso, all of which have committed matching funds to make the grant application possible. This multijurisdictional regional approach encompasses 75% of our Transportation Management Area geographically with 90% of the urbanized area population.

In addition to implementing a wide array of safety measures, the application recognizes the need for a supplemental action plan to further target census tracts where there is a disproportionate number of people that are dependent on transit, biking, and walking. The supplemental action plan will focus on the Historically Disadvantaged Communities and Areas of Persistent Poverty within the region. This Supplemental Action Plan will create a blueprint going forward for the implementation of additional equitable transportation safety measures.

This investment in projects that are locally developed with stakeholder input will improve safety for all in four of the largest communities and two of the largest counties in northeast Oklahoma comprising urban, suburban and rural areas of our region. It is a high priority for INCOG, and is ready for implementation based on wide-ranging and long-standing MUTCD approved measures as well as FHWA developed crash reduction strategies. The federal support for this multi-jurisdictional project of local and regional significance will affirm a shared commitment to raising safety benchmarks for all communities through partnerships. We believe the project application makes a strong case for improving safety for all with inclusive measures to provide equitable, sustainable, and affordable transportation options for all users. INCOG is also committed to include the project within the FFY 2023-26 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) when SS4A funding is secured.

We appreciate your consideration of INCOG's **Travel with Care – Tulsa** project for the Safe Streets for All grant. Should you have questions regarding this project, please don't hesitate to contact us.

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Rich Brierre
INCOG Executive Director



G.T. Bynum
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

September 6, 2022

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

RE: Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Grant application for INCOG - “Travel With Care” Safety Project

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

As the Mayor of Tulsa, I am excited for our city to partner with INCOG, Tulsa County, and other regional municipalities on the **“Travel With Care” Safety Project**.

On May 18, 2022, the Tulsa World ran an article “2021 traffic deaths hit 16-year high.” Tragically, the article highlighted that the number of people killed on our roads nationwide jumped 10.5% from 2020. I agree with you when you state that safety on our roadways is a national crisis. The results of INCOG’s 2022 Local Road Safety Plan shows an increased trend in Tulsa County for fatal and serious injury crashes from 2010-2019. The majority of these are within the boundaries of the City of Tulsa. We have committed to turning this trend around by supporting INCOG’s goal to reduce serious injuries and fatalities by 25% by the year 2030.

The City of Tulsa has greater population and more vulnerable road users than our neighboring municipalities, thus we have a greater percentage of pedestrian and bicycle fatalities on our roads. According to USDOT’s definition of persistent poverty, much of north, east, and west Tulsa fall under this category. We have many residents who use public transit, walk, bike, and use micro-mobility as their primary source of transportation. Without safety countermeasures, our low-income population are the most exposed while on our public right-of-way.

The City of Tulsa will dedicate \$2.75 million in local funding towards the SS4A grant to implement the suggested roadway countermeasures described in the 2022 Local Road Safety Plan. These countermeasures include striping, signage, LED lit stop signs, crosswalks, APS push buttons, and mid-block crossings.



G.T. Bynum
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

As a former mayor, you understand that most Midwest American cities were developed around the automobile. It will take another generation to reverse this trend, but we can start by creating safe public rights-of-way that include the safety of all users and better access to them. This project goes to the heart of USDOT's SS4A grant to employ low-cost, high-impact strategies that can improve safety over a wider geographic area and ensuring equitable investment in the safety needs of underserved communities.

We look forward to partnering with USDOT on this project of local and regional significance for safer streets.

Best regards,

G. T. Bynum
Mayor
City of Tulsa



Board of County Commissioners

Tulsa County HQ
218 W. 6th St.
Tulsa, OK 74119-1004
918.596.5000

STAN SALLEE
DISTRICT #1
918.596.5020

KAREN KEITH
DISTRICT #2
918.596.5015

KELLY DUNKERLEY
DISTRICT #3
918.596.5010

APPROVED
9/12/2022

September 12, 2022

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

RE: Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Grant application for Tulsa County and INCOG - "Travel With Care" Safety Project

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

As the Board of County Commissioners of the County of Tulsa is responsible for construction, maintenance, condition and safety of rural and local roadways in the County highway system, we are excited to join the Indian Nations Council of Governments (INCOG), as a joint applicant for the SS4A grant.

Tulsa County partnered with INCOG in developing the recent Regional Local and Rural Road Safety Plan (LRSP). The LRSP is based on crash data for the years 2010-2020 and further refined for the years 2016-2020 and crashes involving fatalities and serious injuries. The LRSP identifies strategies to enhance safety based on Crash Reduction Factors that call for low-cost, high-impact systemwide improvements. The LRSP specifically recognizes numerous locations in Tulsa County in need of enhanced safety features. I believe these treatments, when implemented, will reduce injuries and fatalities and meet the objectives of the program.

Tulsa County is a member of INCOG; the local metropolitan planning organization. and shares the regional goal of to reduce serious injuries and fatalities on our local roadways by 25% by the year 2030. It goes without saying, this SS4A grant opportunity arrives in a very timely fashion after the completion of our LRSP, and creates an exciting opportunity to make a difference by saving lives through crash reductions on rural roadways. Together, Tulsa County and INCOG recognize the systemic impact of implementing crash reduction measures, as travelers may not distinguish between political subdivisions while traveling these local public jurisdictions.


In recognition of the need for systemwide implementation, **Tulsa County is committing One Million Dollars (\$1 Million) in local matching funds to upgrade striping, add visible crosswalks, add signage with solar mounted LED Stop signs, install guard rails and install advance warning signs as identified by the Action Plan.** The County also will

CMF# 20221738

participate in the supplemental action plan to better examine cause and effect scenarios through the lens of socio-economic conditions and equity to strategically implement evidence-based solutions in areas with the most substantial need. I believe this investment will address equity and sustainability in our transportation system for all users, including the significant percentage (nearly 40%) of disadvantaged population and other vulnerable users of the system, and those that depend on walking and cycling.

We look forward to partnering with INCOG on this project of local and regional significance.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Karen Keith". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "K" and "K".

Chair, Commissioner Karen Keith
Board of County Commissioners of the County of Tulsa



September 7, 2022

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

RE: SAFE STREETS FOR ALL (SS4A) GRANT APPLICATION FOR INCOG - "TRAVEL WITH CARE" SAFETY PROJECT

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

As the Mayor Broken Arrow, Oklahoma, with a population of over 115,000, it is disheartening to learn of crashes that occur on our city streets, resulting in numerous injuries and fatalities, a number of which involve our most vulnerable users, pedestrians and cyclists.

The City of Broken Arrow has implemented walkable community principles along our main street, launched a Bikeshare program, and implemented bike-lanes to connect our main street with local parks and schools. We also pioneered implementation of HAWK beacons to slow drivers around the schools zones. While these efforts contribute to reducing crashes and educating drivers, the overall task of reducing fatalities and serious injuries remains a tall order. Hence, the City of Broken Arrow has partnered with INCOG, the regional metropolitan planning organization, to make a difference by implementing low-cost and high impact crash reduction measures.

The City of Broken Arrow has a leadership role with INCOG, and advocates for a regional vision regarding transportation systems that are safe for all modes of transportation. Broken Arrow has partnered with INCOG in developing the Regional Local and Rural Road Safety Plan (LRSP) that was generated based on crash data for the years 2010-2020 and refined for the years 2016-2020. The LRSP document identified strategies that are based on Crash Reduction Factors and identified several types of treatments to reduce injuries and fatalities.

The INCOG Board of Directors approved the regional vision to reduce serious injuries and fatalities by 25% by the year 2030. The SS4A grant funding would be utilized in significantly reducing crashes on roadways throughout our region and our city thereby saving lives. Implementing systemwide crash reduction measures will greatly benefit the City of Broken Arrow.

Recognizing the need for systemwide implementation, **the City of Broken Arrow is committing to provide One Million (\$1 Million) in local matching funds to upgrade striping & crosswalks, retrofit signal heads with reflective backplates, install advance warning signs, install mid-block HAWK beacons for safe pedestrian crossings, and upgrade signals with advanced push button technology measures to complement safe crossings at intersections for vulnerable users.** The City also commits to participate in the supplemental action plan in order to address the need for implementation of safe countermeasures on rural roadways with further refinement of cause and effects based on socio-economic conditions of populations.

Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to partnering with USDOT on this project of local and regional significance.

Respectfully,

Debra Wimpee

Mayor

City of Broken Arrow, Oklahoma



CITY OF JENKS

211 NORTH ELM STREET • P.O. BOX 2007
JENKS, OKLAHOMA 74037-2007
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September 9, 2022

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

RE: Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Grant application for INCOG - "Travel With Care" Safety Project

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

As the Mayor of The City of Jenks we are excited to work with the Indian Nations Council of Governments (INCOG), the Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Tulsa Metropolitan area, as a joint applicant for the Safe Streets and Roads for All Grant application. These roadway safety improvements are vital for all users of the existing multi-modal systems with the City of Jenks. Implementing low budget, systemwide traffic improvements across the region will have added benefit of uniformity promoting ease of use ensuring a safer transportation system for all.

The City of Jenks is committed to serving all its resident's transportation needs. Currently funded projects include traffic signalization upgrades on several downtown intersections, sidewalk improvements, shoulder additions/improvements and trail additions that will connect gaps within the current system. Jointly applying with INCOG for the Safe Streets and Roads for All Grant will provided an opportunity for Jenks to continue implementing a set of projects that not only augment our currently funded capital projects but also will have a direct impact on crash reduction within our community.

Jenks and the surround communities have teamed with INCOG to develop the Regional Local and Rural Road Safety Plan (LSRP). This plan analyzed crash data for the years 2010-2020 and put an emphasis on the data from years 2016-2020. The LRSRP identified low-cost strategies, based on Crash Reduction Factors, that can be used to reduce injuries and fatalities. Successfully delivering these treatments is necessary for improving safety and quality of life for the residents of the City of Jenks and the region.

The City of Jenks recognizes the need for implementation and will provide a local match of \$200,000 for the SS4A grant. Projects we intend to carry out will include improved striping, updated crosswalks, add advanced warning signs and wayfinding signage, LED lit stop signs and modernized signal heads with reflective backplates, and pedestrian signals with push button technology to complement safe crossing for all users.

Thank you for your consideration of the application. Should you have any questions regarding this letter of support, please do not hesitate to contact City Engineer, Chris Cloyde at ccloyde@jenksok.org.

Best regards,

Cory Box,
Mayor, City of Jenks



...removing

September 9, 2022

obstacles

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

standing

in the way

RE: Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Grant application – Indian Nation Council of Government (INCOG) "Travel With Care" Safety Project

of people

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

celebrating

In 2015, the Owasso City Council voted unanimously to approve the establishment of a Complete Streets policy. In fact, we are one among the first few jurisdictions within the Tulsa TMA that has adopted a Complete Streets policy. It was and still is important to the City of Owasso to ensure that everyone, no matter their mode of transportation, be able to arrive back home to their families safely.

their lives.

Our new standard for capital improvement projects is to create an 8' side-path on one side of the street, a 5' sidewalk on the other, and bike lanes. Our speed limits on our arterial roads are signed at 35 mph, citywide. This shows that Owasso is committed to making our streets safer for our residents, not just passing a policy. Despite these improvements to our transportation system, there are still crashes and fatalities for both vulnerable road users and people in automobiles. Even one loss of life on our public streets is unacceptable. This is why we are fully committed to implementing our common vision, the INCOG's newly adopted Local Road Safety Plan.

The City of Owasso will commit to a local match of \$200,000 to the SS4A grant to implement the safety plan in our jurisdiction. FHWA countermeasures we intend to employ are LED lit stop signs, improved striping and signage, updated continental crosswalks, and accessible pedestrian signals to help people with disabilities to navigate safely across our streets.

Please accept this letter of support and financial commitment from the City of Owasso, contingent upon City Council approval. As City Manager, I look forward to collaborating with INCOG and our regional neighbors to implement the Travel With Care Safety Project.

Regards,

Warren Lehr
City Manager



Wagoner County Board of Commissioners

Commissioner James Hanning, District 1
Commissioner Chris Edwards, District 2
Commissioner Tim Kelley, District 3
307 E. Cherokee Street
Wagoner, OK 74467



918-485-2216 phone
918-485-7718 fax

Lori Hendricks, County Clerk
Secretary to the Board

September 9, 2022

FROM:
Board of County Commissioners
Wagoner County
307 E. Cherokee Street
Wagoner, OK 74467

TO:
Mr. Viplav Putta
Indian Nations Council of Governments
2 West Second Street
Suite 800
Tulsa, OK 74103

Mr. Putta,

On August 6, 2022, the Wagoner County Board of Commissioners voted to participate in the Indian Nations Council of Governments (INCOG) submission for the Safe Streets and Roads for All – USDOT Discretionary Grant Program. Wagoner County committed to the 20% match requirement for the following submitted projects:

- 1) 22 miles of roadway striping to include edge striping and double centerlines
- 2) One mid-street cross walk in the community of Okay to include pedestrian crossing signage

The 20% match is estimated to be no more than \$100,000.00.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Chris Edwards", is written over a faint, larger version of the same signature.

Mr. Chris Edwards
Chairman
Wagoner County Board of Commissioners



September 12, 2022

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

The Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT) is pleased to send this letter in support of the application by the Indian Nations Council of Governments (INCOG) for the Safe Streets for All (SS4A) project: **Travel With Care - Tulsa**. We are confident INCOG has the capacity and foresight to manage this project from beginning to end in a timely and efficient manner.

The core focus of this project is to reduce traffic crashes with methodical application of low-cost, high impact strategies to implement systemwide improvements. These regional improvements were studied with technical assistance from Federal Highway Administration, and Oklahoma Department of Transportation has been an integral partner of the study. The INCOG - Local Road Safety Plan (LRSP) identified several of these strategies to prevent crashes in urban and rural settings targeting all road users, specifically the most vulnerable users of our systems. The exciting part of this application is that four municipalities, including the City of Tulsa and two core counties in the Tulsa Metropolitan Region, joined the effort as applicants.

The Oklahoma Department of Transportation, with its experience related to environmental reviews and traffic systems implementation, will commit to provide support in the form of completing the environmental review for the project to enable the INCOG and its partners to complete the project in a timely manner.

We look forward to supporting INCOG and USDOT on this SS4A grant implementation. Should you have any questions regarding this letter of support, please do not hesitate to contact us. Thank you again for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Tim J. Gatz
Secretary of Transportation
Executive Director