



# Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

**Oregon Transportation Commission**

Office of the Director, MS 11

355 Capitol St NE

Salem, OR 97301-3871

July 21, 2021

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg, Secretary  
United States Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

The Oregon Transportation Commission (OTC) is pleased to support the joint Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT)/City of Pendleton application for RAISE 2021 funding for the Southgate Interchange project.

This important project will address safety and congestion concerns along two major freight corridors in rural Northeast Oregon. The Southgate Interchange brings together Interstate 84 and US 395 in Pendleton, OR. Should it be constructed, this project will improve connections between these two important roadways as well as connections between downtown Pendleton and residential and commercial areas of the city. The proposed improvements will facilitate freight mobility by reducing ramp backups and allowing for smoother and safer transitions between I-84 and US 395. By expanding Southgate (US 395) and improving intersections that facilitate local traffic flow, this project will benefit commuters and local economic activity as well.

The OTC is pleased to support this grant partnership between ODOT and the City of Pendleton. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Robert Van Brocklin, Chair  
Oregon Transportation Commission