



Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

P.O. Box 1210 • Durant, OK 74702-1210 • (580) 924-8280

Gregory E. Pyle
Chief

Gary Batton
Assistant Chief

September 9, 2009

US Department of Transportation

RE: City of Durant, OK

To the TIGER Grant Review Team:

As an economic development partner with the City of Durant, the Choctaw Nation is committing to **"Partnerships Supporting Economic Recovery"** in support of the projects identified for the TIGER Discretionary Grant Program request. The Choctaw Nation is dedicated to demonstrate strong collaboration for all efforts to preserve jobs and increase economic activity. The requested funds will be vital for essential surface infrastructure to provide roadway and bridge improvements necessary for economic growth and safety in Durant and for the surrounding areas, located in southeastern Oklahoma.

The Enterprise Boulevard extension to 21st Street and 9th Street improvements will directly affect the Choctaw Nation Enterprises. Both of these roadways are also vitally linked to the US Highway 69 / 75 and the new State Highway 70 By-Pass under construction. The OK Department of Transportation is making improvements to the south end of 9th Street, and due to extreme traffic and safety concerns, it is crucial for the improvements to be completed for the remaining 3,696 feet of roadway. By extending Enterprise Boulevard, many businesses will benefit by rerouting semi truck traffic. Currently, there are hundreds of semi-trucks traveling daily over these insufficient roadways. In June 2009, the Choctaw Nation completed a new Emergency Response Center on Enterprise Boulevard, and it is critical to connect the roadway to 21st Street allowing emergency access to the main downtown, residential area and all six Durant Public schools, several private schools and Southeastern Oklahoma State University.

All of the proposed transportation improvements will have a significant long-term impact to southeastern Oklahoma, and are equally essential to continue the City of Durant's intense efforts towards economic development, quality of life, safety and partnerships. These projects are vital to the Choctaw Nation enterprises with our \$33 million in capital investment over the past two years, sustaining nearly 800 jobs and creating an estimated 1,000+ jobs within the next three years.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gregory E. Pyle", is written in a cursive style.

Gregory E. Pyle Chief
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma