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# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3603

February 25, 2020

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

Dear Secretary Chao:

I write in strong support for the Oklahoma Department of Transportation's (ODOT) Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) grant application for the I-40 and Douglas Blvd. project in Oklahoma County, Oklahoma.

This project would advance reconstruction and widening of more than five miles of I-40 from four lanes to six lanes in Oklahoma City and Midwest City, Oklahoma. This includes rebuilding the I-40 interchange at Douglas Blvd as a Single Point Urban Interchange and addressing vertical clearance of several bridges over I-40. This corridor and the Douglas Blvd. interchange directly serves Tinker Air Force Base (AFB), the largest single-site employer in Oklahoma that draws thousands of commuters and materials suppliers each day. Tinker AFB supports critical national defense missions worldwide and is a key driver for Oklahoma's private sector aviation and aerospace engineering and manufacturing industry.

ODOT has invested considerable resources to improve the corridor in this area, with several ongoing and planned projects to widen the interstate to six lanes between Oklahoma City and Shawnee, Oklahoma to support growing freight and commuter traffic. Additionally, the Oklahoma Turnpike Authority's new 21-mile Kickapoo Turnpike between I-44 and I-40 on Oklahoma City's east side will open in late 2020 and will generate additional new traffic volume as it connects with I-40 just east of Douglas Blvd. It is critical to address this outdated and insufficient segment of I-40 now, before traffic volumes dramatically increase.

Widening and completing the six-lane corridor between Oklahoma City and Shawnee, Oklahoma addresses the most challenging segment of I-40. Finally, completion of this project will have significant national and regional transportation economic impacts, as I-40 is one of the only all-weather, coast-to-coast interstate routes in the United States.

I strongly support ODOT's application for the I-40 and Douglas Blvd project, and urge your consideration of this important project for an INFRA grant.

Sincerely,



James M. Inhofe  
United States Senator