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September 13, 2022

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am pleased to submit this letter in support of the Oklahoma Department of Transportation's (ODOT's) application for a Bridge Improvement Program grant (BIP) to continue critically needed improvements to the bridges on the I-40 over Portland and I-44 'K' Interchange in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

I-40 is a vital interstate corridor that serves as the primary east-west route across the nation. Through this interchange, the I-40 corridor carries significant traffic of approximately 125,000 vehicles per day. Traffic volumes are projected to increase more than 30% by 2051. The I-40 over I-44 'K' Interchange project goal is to reconstruct and rehabilitate bridges and roadways on the present the alignment to promote safer operation and replace aging facilities. The bridges included in the project are rated as structurally deficient or are at risk of becoming structurally deficient in the near future. The proposed I-40 bridge replacements would help to provide lane balance across and through the interchange, add capacity, and include proper safety shoulder widths.

These critical improvements will enhance the traffic operation and improve safety through the interchange. Thank you in advance for your strong consideration of ODOT's application for this BIP grant.

Sincerely,



Stephanie Bice
Member of Congress