



Office of the President
**Southeastern Oklahoma
State University**

July 15, 2022

Kyle Henry
SCORTO Regional Transportation Planner
P.O. Box 709
Durant, Oklahoma 74702

RE: Roosevelt Bridge

Mr. Henry,

I write this letter on behalf of the faculty, staff, students and alumni of Southeastern Oklahoma State University, in support of replacement of the Roosevelt Bridge along US 70 over Lake Texoma.

The bridge has served us well over the last 80 years since its initial construction in 1942, but with traffic demand increasing and the future growth of the Durant/Kingston area, a two-lane bridge is inadequate for our regional needs. In addition to the functional limitations of the bridge, it is at risk of becoming structurally deficient. University groups use the bridge frequently for travel, to both western and northern destinations, and functionality of the bridge is becoming a growing concern for both the safety and convenience of our community.

I am aware that designing and constructing a new bridge will be a lengthy and costly process, but it is imperative that this process start immediately in order to ensure this project is a funding priority for current and future transportation needs. This is a critical need now, and I fully support the process of securing funding now for this landmark project.

Thank you for this opportunity to support this critical infrastructure need for our region. If you have any questions, please contact me at tnewsom@se.edu or 580-745-2500.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. Newsom'.

Dr. Thomas Newsom, Ph.D.
President, Southeastern Oklahoma State University