



Wednesday, September 7, 2022

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

RE: Bridge Investment Program for the US-69 Bridge Replacement in Durant

Honorable Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of Kiamichi Railroad Company (KRR), I am writing to voice our organization's strong support of the Oklahoma Department of Transportation's (ODOT) application for a Bridge Investment Program discretionary grant to assist with the US-69 Bridge Replacement in Durant. The rehabilitation of the US-69 is both necessary and urgent to provide safety and resilience. This project will replace four bridges over Arkansas Street, the KRR, and Main Street. One of the bridges is structurally deficient and the other three are expected to become structurally deficient over the next few years.

KRR strongly supports the US-69 Bridge Replacement in Durant for its vital contribution to the needed infrastructure improvements in a developing community. The proposed project is crucial for creating a bridge that will safely satisfy all the necessary requirements of the region. We strongly urge your support of full funding for the project.

A safe and reliable transportation system is critical for the needs of Oklahoma residents and the communities in which our railroad operates. I am pleased to support this project as stakeholders work to improve infrastructure in Oklahoma.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephen Wellman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Stephen Wellman  
General Manager  
Kiamichi Railroad