

September 8, 2022

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I am pleased to support the Oklahoma Department of Transportation's (ODOT) application for Bridge Investment Program (BIP) grant funding to rehabilitate multiple bridges that provide critical freight access on US 69. Funding from this grant will guarantee safe commutes for thousands of Oklahomans and will further expand economic activity in Oklahoma.

US 69 is designated as a Critical Rural Freight Corridor in the Oklahoma Freight Plan and improvements to bridge infrastructure along this corridor will support freight traffic traveling within the state of Oklahoma. The US-69 Bridge Replacement Project in Durant replaces US-69 bridges over Arkansas Street, the Kiamichi Railroad, and Main Street in Durant, Oklahoma. The project will replace one structurally deficient bridge and three bridges in fair but deteriorating condition, that are at risk of becoming structurally deficient. The bridge replacement is on the existing bridge alignment, minimizing impacts to the community and the environment.

Investing in the bridges today will allow the area to avoid costly detours should the bridges further deteriorate and require closing. This project will support critical mobility, safety, and good repair goals for the state of Oklahoma and the region it serves. I appreciate your consideration of the ODOT's application for BIP grant funding. Please contact Alexandra Slocum (202-224-4721 or Alexandra_Slocum@inhofe.senate.gov) on my staff if you have any questions related to this project.

Sincerely,



James M. Inhofe

United States Senator