

Friday, November 17, 2023

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

Dear Honorable Secretary Buttigieg:

As the “*voice of trucking*” in Oklahoma, we represent the unified interest of our member companies that literally have a front row seat to the needs of infrastructure across our state. Having polled our members, the Oklahoma Trucking Association, believes this project meets the desired goals state for the Oklahoma Department of Transportation’s (ODOT) application for the Bridge Investment Program (BIP). This project would improve the connection of I-35 and I-240, ensuring that this critical corridor will continue to serve the state and nation’s interstate system.

As “*the voice of trucking*” safety is imperative to the industry, and we believe the following to be beneficial: The I-35 & I-240 Interchange is crucial to the function of Oklahoma City and the nation. Interstate 35 in Oklahoma City is a critical intercontinental freight corridor linking the country from north to south while also intersecting two other major east-west freight corridors, I-40 and I-44. I-240 serves as the southern loop of Oklahoma City connecting people to healthcare, education, and employment, as well as, major transportation generators such as Will Rogers World Airport and Tinker Air Force Base. The two bridges in Oklahoma City see over 13,000 trucks per day and ODOT has identified the corridor as a freight bottleneck.

Reconstruction of the I-35/I-240 Crossroads will create a multi-level interchange with dedicated interstate ramps and improve city street access with added ramps, turnaround lanes and service roads. Completion of this project will assist in the safety, accessibility, and travel time for network users.

The Oklahoma Trucking Association strongly supports this project for its vital contribution to the region, state and nation. We urge your support of full funding for the project. Thank you in advance for your strong consideration of ODOT’s application for the Bridge Investment Program. Please contact our offices if you need any further assistance as you consider this important proposal.

Sincerely,

Jim Newport
CEO/President
Oklahoma Trucking Association

Mario Archaga
Chairman

Bobby Smith
First Vice Chairman

Carmalieta Wells
Second Vice Chairman

Jim Newport
President & CEO

