

Letters of Support Index

Competitive Highway Bridge Grant

Oklahoma Department of Transportation & Grant County Oklahoma

Government offices & services

- United States Postal Service, Deer Creek and Lamont Postmaster
 - United States Postal Service, Medford Postmaster
 - Grant County District 2 Executive Assistant, Paul Mathews
 - Grant County Emergency Manager, Brandon Fetters
 - Grant County Rural Water District #1
 - Grant County Conservation District
 - Town of Deer Creek
 - Deer Creek Volunteer Rural Fire Department
 - Hawley Rural Fire Department
 - Town of Lamont
 - Lamont Volunteer Rural Fire Department
 - Lamont Public Water Authority
 - Lamont Police Department
 - Town of Manchester
 - City of Medford
 - Medford Ambulance
 - Medford Volunteer Rural Fire Department
 - Medford Public Library
 - Town of Nash
 - Nash Fire Department
 - Town of Renfrow
 - Town of Wakita
-
- Wakita Volunteer Rural Fire Department

Economic development organizations

- Northern Oklahoma Development Authority
- Wheatland Resource Conservation & Development

Educational Institutions

- Deer Creek-Lamont Public Schools
- Timberlake Public Schools
- Oklahoma State University - Ed Kirtley, Assistant Dean, Outreach & Extension, College of Engineering Architecture & Technology
- Oklahoma State University- Kassie Junghanns, Agriculture/4-H Youth Development Extension Educator
- University of Oklahoma - Randy A. Pepler, Associate Director, CIMMS
- University of Wisconsin - Mar Mulligan, Executive Director, Space Science and Engineering Center



11/09/2018

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao
Secretary, U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Chao,

I am writing to express my support for Grant County, Oklahoma in partnership with the Oklahoma Department of Transportation submission to the Competitive Highway Bridge Program (CHBP) application.

I am a United States Postmaster serving several offices including Lamont, which is in Grant County. The USPS is perhaps the oldest national public institution in America, established in 1775 before the Declaration of Independence and specifically authorized by the U.S. Constitution (Article 1, Section 8). Yet it remains a vital component of this country's economic and communications infrastructure. In the past year, USPS handled and delivered 160 billion pieces of mail and generated more than \$65 billion in revenues, while receiving no taxpayer funding. Despite the rise of the internet, almost on half of all bills are still paid by mail. The majority of bills and statements received by households are still delivered by mail. And, the vast majority of magazines are delivered by mail. Meanwhile, the volume of packages is exploding due to on-line shopping such as Amazon.

Areas of Grant County still do not have access to the internet and therefore they remain dependent on the United States Postal Service for vital communications and for the shipment of goods. Many residents, particularly elderly residents, depend on USPS for receiving their prescription drugs. Voting by mail is no commonplace and will remain essential to our democracy. USPS rural mail service is still vital for economic growth and development for the people of Grant County. The safety of the rural mail carriers driving these Grant County roads and bridges are most important.

The rural mail carrier for Deer Creek and Lamont drives 160 miles six days a week, 52 weeks a year (less federal holidays). Grant County has over 3000 bridge and bridge-like structures with 174 of them being rates as structurally deficient. The area rural mail carriers cross a great majority of these bridges. Numerous benefits will be achieved through the CHBP grant, including more efficient and safe travel, and an overall lower cost of maintenance of vehicles.

Thank you in advance for your support.

Sincerely,

Michael G. Newcomb, Postmaster

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Michael G. Newcomb", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.



US Postal Service
115 West Cherokee Street
Medford, Oklahoma 73759
(580)395-22450

November 13, 2018

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao
Secretary, U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Chao,

As Postmaster of Medford U.S. Post Office, I am writing in complete support of Grant County, Oklahoma in partnership with the Oklahoma Department of Transportation and their submission of an application for funds from the Competitive Highway Bridge Program (CHBP) grant.

The City of Medford USPS has rural routes that are travelled six days a week. Our citizens deserve and expect, prompt and reliable service. However, due to certain bridge closures and other bridges lack of safety, our carriers are forced to re-route their original route and at times travel over bridges that are in need of replacement to complete their daily service. Dependable roadways and bridges are imperative to providing delivery to all US citizens in a timely manner including rural citizens. Today's consumers shop online and this continues to increase which has caused an increase in postal deliveries. A dependable infrastructure is necessary to provide reliable service to our citizens.

I am in hopes the federal CHBP will be awarded to Grant County which would help insure safer bridges for our rural carriers as well as our citizens. The replacement of 34 bridges in Grant County would decrease necessary repairs to postal vehicles as well as provide better service to our rural customers.

Your consideration of Grant County, Oklahoma as a recipient of this grant, would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sheila R. Wade".

Sheila R. Wade
Postmaster

**Grant County District 2
524 N Front Street
Medford, Oklahoma 73759
580-395-2859**

November 9, 2018

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao
Secretary, U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Chao,

Thank you for considering my letter in support of the Competitive Highway Bridge Program (CHBP) grant being submitted in partnership with the Oklahoma Department of Transportation (DOT) and Grant County, Oklahoma, a land of opportunity! The prospect to bundle 34 county-owned structurally deficient bridges of like-kind into a single contract that will save engineering, time and cost while adding to the economy, will most assuredly develop opportunities many times over.

Currently I serve as the Executive Assistant to Grant County Commissioner Cindy Bobbitt. I actually began my services with county government with the sheriff's department in 2001 in Grady County, Oklahoma and on to Creek County where I became a CLEET certified deputy. I worked as Assistant Jail Administrator until 2011. I then moved into a county highway road district position of mowing ditches and cutting trees. These were great jobs. However, my wife and I had a great desire to move closer to our family and grandchildren so we decided to look at other job opportunities closer to where they lived. Fast forward in time, we now live in Grant County where I still work in county government for the county highway road District #2.

As a governmental entity, Grant County property tax revenues collected go to specific public services. These property taxes cannot go to fund any road or bridge infrastructure. Instead property taxes go to support schools, jails, and the courthouse and health departments, just to name a few. Furthermore, each and every one mentioned is imperative. Funding of roads and bridges are statutorily defined. Funding for transportation infrastructure is limited to user fees, including fuel taxes and vehicle tags, along with a very small portion of oil and gas gross production.

All businesses in Grant County are equally important. We need to retain the businesses we have, the population base we have, and the employment levels we have, and would like to see all those things grow. This bridge bundling package would definitely be a benefit to the county and regional companies, and could assist us in keeping our local economy strong and even position our economy for growth if this grant is awarded.

Not only does Grant County rural road, bridges and state highways connect our county and state to other counties and states, they also serve as a lifeline for all citizens both rural and urban, which play a critical role in the movement of people, freight and other goods and services to market. Bridges are an integral part of, not only Grant County's infrastructure, but more importantly in American's infrastructure.

Please seriously consider this CHBP grant application. If funded, it will have a great impact on the future growth and stability of the economy in Grant County as well as the State of Oklahoma and all of America. We look forward to a positive response to the application.

Cordially,



Paul Mathews
Executive Assistant
Grant County District 2

GRANT COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Brandon Fetters, Emergency Management Director
112 E. Guthrie Rm 104A
Medford, Oklahoma 73759
Office Phone 580-395-2214 Office FAX 580-395-2603
Cell: 580-541-1027

November 13, 2018

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao
Secretary, U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Chao,

I am writing to support the application to the Competitive Highway Bridge Program (CHBP) grant being submitted by Grant County in partnership with the Oklahoma Department of Transportation (DOT).

As the Grant County Emergency Management Director, I oversee all emergencies in Grant County, and we have our fair share of emergencies. Natural disasters like tornadoes, floods, fires, and more recently earthquakes. On top of that we have other disaster including hazardous material spill, groundwater contaminations and transportation accidents.

There are three primary emergency services that can be summoned directly by the public:

- Police – law enforcement, criminal investigation and maintenance of public order
- Fire – firefighting, hazardous material response and technical rescue
- EMS – emergency medical services and technical rescue

In 2012, 19 percent of the U.S. population lived in rural areas but rural road fatalities accounted for 54 percent of all road-related fatalities. This is due to a number of factors like the physical characteristics of our roadways, including capacity and condition; behavioral issues such as higher speeds, reduced seat-belt use, and higher rates of impaired driving; and longer emergency medical response times due to the distance between incidents, emergency responders and medical facilities.

In 2013, more than 12,000 people were killed on local roads across the U.S. — a fatality rate greater than 1.5 per 100 million vehicle-miles of travel, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. This is almost three times the fatality rate of the Interstate Highway System. Also in 2013, the overall cost of crashes on local roads was well over \$100 billion, accounting for fatalities, decreased quality of life due to injuries and economic costs (medical, insurance and property loss).

Grant County has two public ambulance providers, one private ambulance service and eight rural volunteer fire departments. They all agree that emergency medical service (EMS) is a time-critical service that highly depends on crucial road network. The transportation infrastructure is one of the major contributing factors to reliable EMS serviceability and patient outcome. Understanding dependency of EMS on transportation infrastructure requires a multi-faceted analysis incorporating diverse information such as EMS dispatch locations, distance and time traveled to the scene, and grid and condition of the road and bridge infrastructure.

The bundling of 34 county-owned structurally deficient bridges in Grant County will help significantly in saving lives as well as adding to our economic output. Please give this application serious consideration to help Make America Great Again!

Sincerely,



Brandon Fetters

Grant County Rural Water District # 1
33239 County Road 810
Wakita, OK 73771

November 9, 2018

The Honorable Secretary Elaine L. Chao
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

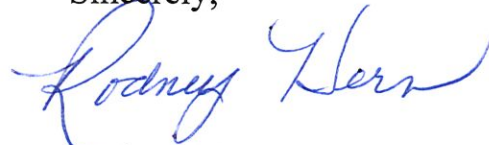
Dear Secretary Chao,

We have rural water lines in Grant County which serves customers in the northwestern part of our county. Would you please consider assisting our local Grant County District # 1 in the Competitive Highway Bridge Program for our area?

By having these bridges, it would benefit our water district and our customers so we have better access to maintain our water lines.

We ask that you kindly approve this grant to help our county.

Sincerely,



Rodney Hern
President



Grant County Conservation District

624 North Hwy 81 – Medford, OK 73759 – Phone (580) 395-2324 Ext. 101

November 13, 2018

The Honorable Secretary Elaine L. Chao
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao,

Grant County has many producers who use the roads and bridges daily transporting large equipment, livestock, and grains. Due to this factor upkeep on the roads and bridges are a necessity for safe travel. For this reason, the Grant County Conservation District would like you to consider assisting our local Grant County District #1 in the Competitive Highway Bridge Program for our area.

By having these bridges replaced it would benefit our county's residents and rural community to have safer bridges to cross.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Brent Brewer
Grant County Conservation District

TOWN OF DEER CREEK
1064 Main Street, Deer Creek, OK 74636-4003
Phone / FAX 580-267-3518

November 10, 2018

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao
Secretary, U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

**RE: Competitive Highway Bridge Program (CHBP) Grant Application:
Oklahoma Department of Transportation and Grant County, Oklahoma**

Dear Secretary Chao,

The Oklahoma Department of Transportation and Grant County, Oklahoma are working together to submit a grant application to the Federal Highway Administration and the U.S. Department of Transportation for new innovation to bundle 34 county owned bridges. As Mayor of the Town of Deer Creek, a small community within Grant County, please be assured that our entire town board and the population at large fully supports this application.

Grant County is responsible for a substantial amount of infrastructure. There are 1,920 public road miles that run through Grant County, 92 percent of which are owned and maintained by the county with the balance maintained by the state. Grant County alone has over 3,000 bridge or bridge-like structures, including 535 bridges captured by the National Bridge Inventory with 174 county-owned bridges rated as structurally deficient! Bridges are an integral part of, not only Grant County's infrastructure, but more importantly in America's infrastructure. As a marketplace for our area farmers, quality roads and bridges are essential for crops to be brought to market and also for our local school bus routes to transport our children.

Grant County, like all of America's rural counties, had previously experienced declining populations due to aging; however, more recently people are moving back to rural Grant County. Family ties, increased opportunities for outdoor recreation for the whole family, starting a new business and hiring employees, assuming leadership positions, volunteering and fuller participation in school sports for their children are often mentioned as motivating factors for moving back to Grant County. In turn, this has spurred economic growth and economic development in our own town of Deer Creek.

On behalf of the Town of Deer Creek, I respectfully request the partnership of the federal, state and county government to help grow this grant for Grant County to address long-unmet rural bridge infrastructure funding. This investment is needed to not only continue the growth in Grant County but to spur prosperous rural economies, facilitate movement of natural energy and resources, improve access to reliable and affordable agriculture transportation and enhance health and safety for residents and businesses.

Sincerely,



Ken Gaskill
Mayor, Town of Deer Creek

Deer Creek Fire Dept
1064 Main Street
Deer Creek OK 74636

November 8, 2018

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao
Secretary, U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Chao,

It is with great pleasure that I write this letter in support of Grant County, Oklahoma. In partnership with the Oklahoma Department of Transportation (DOT) an application is being submitted for a Competitive Highway Bridge Program (CHBP) Grant to bundle 34 county owned bridges.

Grant County has eight rural volunteer fire departments, two public ambulance services and one private ambulance company that provides first responder and emergency services to a county of 4,500 people in an area covering over 1000 square miles. Although this is a low population of people, it is a large area to cover. Then add the fact that the greatest number of emergency responders is unpaid volunteers then this area seems even larger.

I serve as Chief of the Deer Creek Fire Department with a town population less than 150; however, our response area includes a large portion of the northeastern section of Grant County. Volunteer firefighters play an invaluable role in protecting lives and property. We respond to a wide variety of calls, such as car crashes, chemical spills, flooding, water rescue and general rescue in addition to fires. Deer Creek Fire Department is an active member in the Grant County Strike Team that has responded to numerous federal disasters and wild fires in Oklahoma and Kansas.


Grant County has extensive challenges with their bridges. Grant County has over 3,000 bridge or bridge-like structures, including 535 bridges captured by the National Bridge Inventory with 174 rated as structurally deficient. It's hard to imagine, but there are almost as many bridges as there are people in Grant County!

The transportation infrastructure is one of the major contributing factors to response time for emergency services, including fire departments. Our fire trucks, pumper trucks and tanker trucks need load adequate and structurally sound bridges to insure safe crossings for the most direct route to ensure that responders can arrive on scene quickly and safety. Detours not only cost money but more importantly they add critical time that might mean the difference of a life saved or a life lost.

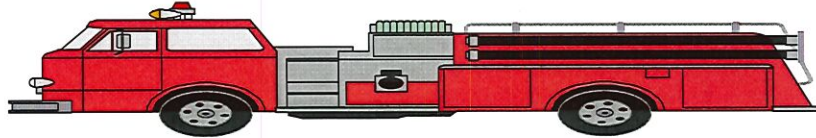
The fire departments greatest asset is our volunteer firefighters. They live and work in Grant County and they add to the economy. Many are self-employed in farming, ranching or in the energy industry. Economic impacts from their income, as well as direct and induced impacts from business spending on supplies, payroll and taxes are important factors for Grant County. If the individuals leave the county, not only does our local economy suffer but our volunteer emergency response fails as well.

Please give this application your full time and attention because all lives matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Williams". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a horizontal line.

HAWLEY RURAL FIRE DEPARTMENT



79969 Greer Rd. Nash, OK. 73761 Email: hawleyfd@pdi.net
Phone 580-839-2288 [non-emergency] Fax 580-234-0120
A 501c3 Organization Sales Tax # 831561

EMERGENCY # 911

The Honorable Secretary Elaine L. Chao
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

RE: CHBP- Competative Highway Bridge Program

Dear Secretary Chao,

The Hawley Fire Department serves an area of 100 square miles in western Grant County of Oklahoma. Although we are rural area, we have a large number of homes, businesses and farms that we protect. Being a rural area, we do not have the luxury of having fire hydrants to provide for emergency situations. As a result, we have two large water tenders, one that carries 3,000 gallons of water and one that carries 5,000 gallons of water.

To successful extinguish a fire, we must have those trucks at the fire scene. That means, we must drive those trucks down our roads and across our bridges. Many of those bridges are not capable of handling the weight and we must drive many miles out of the way to finally get to the fire. Many times the first responding fire units will already be out of water before the tenders arrive on scene.

This grant will enable Grant County to replace those inadequate and unsafe bridges and will enable our department to have a quicker and more successful outcome. Please consider approving this grant for our county.

Sincerely Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Clifford L. Biby" with a stylized flourish at the end.

Cliff Biby
Captain

Town of Lamont



PO Box 187 * Lamont, OK 74643

November 7, 2018

The Honorable Secretary Elaine L. Chao
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590
United States

Dear Secretary Chao:

Grant County, Oklahoma, is a wonderful place to call home. It is here where you will find dedicated, hard working Oklahomans. The ability to get a task completed properly and efficiently is a quality we hold to a high standard.

Cattle ranching and farming along with the oil, gas and wind industries are the largest source of economic growth in our community. Running the risk of losing a trailer full of heavy equipment, grain, or livestock is far too great. Therefore, farmers, ranchers, businessmen and women are compelled to choose an alternate route, causing additional wear and tear on equipment, and unnecessary loaded miles on the livestock, resulting in loss of time and money.

Grant County currently has the greatest number of bridges in the state of Oklahoma. They are also ranked as the "most structurally deficient bridges". It is imperative that these bridges be made safer. Approximately 19% of the population reside in these rural areas, using these bridges as their way in and out. School bus routes are also the source of transportation for these children. With safety being a priority, schools are forced to choose longer bus routes utilizing safer bridges. Again, adding wear and tear to equipment, extra cost of wages and fuel on an already depleted budget.

With how our community is situated, many of these dilapidated bridges control an entrance into our town. With them being closed or condemned, economic growth is potentially at risk.

The Town of Lamont fully supports Grant County's application for new bridges through the Competitive Highway Bridge Program. We hope to see this process done through bundling, resulting in cost effective measures.

Sincerely, 

Jeff Tebow, Mayor

Town of Lamont



PO Box 187 * Lamont, OK 74643

November 7, 2018

The Honorable Secretary Elaine L. Chao
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590
United States

Dear Secretary Chao:

Grant County, Oklahoma, offers its residents peace and tranquility in their way of life. It is the ideal place to raise a family. Mother nature does take its course, upsetting our routine. We rely on our local fire departments to come to our aid.

In the event of an emergency, not only do the responders have to look at the quickest route to the scene, they must know which the safest route is. The condition of the bridges plays a big role in this important factor. This takes seconds away from the scene. Seconds to an already panicked victim seems like minutes. When you are looking at a potential loss of life, home or property, or whatever the emergency may be, seconds do matter.

Not only do the responding men and women have the patient, or property to worry about, they have themselves and equipment to care for. If a grass fire were to jump a county road, potentially putting a structure in harms way, the fire apparatus needs to be able to get to that structure to protect it. With the conditions of Grant County bridges, this is not a guarantee. Driving over a rundown bridge with heavy equipment puts the lives of the firemen and women at danger but going an alternative route may put the structure in danger of being a total loss.

The Lamont Volunteer Fire Department is proud to support the Grant County Commissioners in the application for the Competitive Highway Bridge Grant. Not only will these funds replace the much-needed bridges but will help us protect and serve our citizens. Access to our citizens is of utmost concern to our department.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Kolby Tebow'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name 'Kolby' and the last name 'Tebow' clearly distinguishable.

Kolby Tebow, Fire Chief

Town of Lamont



PO Box 187 * Lamont, OK 74643

November 7, 2018

The Honorable Secretary Elaine L. Chao
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590
United States

Dear Secretary Chao:

Grant County, Oklahoma, has numerous opportunities for growth. Resources are abundant and thriving. Fellow Oklahomans are proud to be from a rural area such as Grant County, Oklahoma.

Rural residents who do not have a private well rely on water from nearby towns. This not only affects their personal needs, but their livelihoods as well. Farmers and Ranchers as well as the gas, oil and wind industries rely on rural water for their livestock, crops, location maintenance, etc. With dilapidated bridges and closed bridges, Town owned water wells cannot be maintained, water lines cannot be repaired efficiently, and routine maintenance is quite a task resulting in unnecessary man hours costing tax payers dollars.

With limited access to and from town due to condition of these bridges, this also limits the potential growth of our rural water. Without good access to residents and their water supply, we run the risk of our residents relocating. This is a huge loss for Grant County.

Lamont Public Water Authority supports Grant County's application for the Competitive Highway Bridge Program. With the option to bundle, this will help Grant County cost effective measures. The bottom dollar is most important to our tax payers and is very important to rural Oklahomans.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Brett Howe", is written over a faint, larger blue outline of the signature.

Brett Howe, Water Maintenance Supervisor



Lamont Police Department

1323 Main

P.O. Box 414

Lamont, Oklahoma 74643

Phone 580-388-4502

Fax 580-388-4359

Town Hall 580-388-4360

The Honorable Secretary Elaine L. Chao
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington DC 20590
United States

Dear Secretary Chao,

Law enforcement in a rural area is a challenging endeavor. Many times as a law enforcement first responder, we work alone as budget and demand can only support one officer on duty at a time. Often, we find ourselves in need of immediate assistance and rely on county units to respond. The need for assistance to arrive in a timely manner is crucial to save lives not just of the citizens involved but the officer as well. Sometimes a municipal officer can be called to respond outside of their jurisdiction to assist county units under the same set of circumstances.

When faced with this situation, assistance can sometimes take fifteen or twenty minutes to arrive. The condition of our bridges and roadways is of top priority. In flooding situations and acts of God, we count on the ability to take alternative routes to get to impacted areas. Based upon the Oklahoma Department of Transportation's last bridge summary, Grant county has 174 structurally deficient bridges, more than any county in Oklahoma. This information is an indication of a serious situation and should be addressed immediately.

Therefore, the Lamont Police Department fully supports the Grant County Commissioners in the application for the Competitive Highway Bridge Grant. A Police Department's primary function is to "Protect and Serve." The repair of these bridges will ensure our ability to serve our community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dustin Musick". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name of the signatory.

Dustin Musick, Chief of Police

**TOWN OF MANCHESTER
P.O. BOX 5
1579 MAIN STREET
MANCHESTER, OK 73758
580-694-2340**

November 7, 2018

THE HONORABLE

Secretary Eline L. Chao

US Department of Transportation

1200 New Jersey Ave, SE

Washington, DC 20590

United States

Dear Secretary Chao:

I am writing to express my strong support for the Competitive Highway Bridge program Grant. This grant will greatly increase the safety and quality for travelers on all the Grant county roads.

As The Mayor of the Town of Manchester, I feel this grant will make it safer for anyone who travels on the county roads, we have people who travel out to check water wells, water meters, and farmers, along with many others. it would be very beneficial to the fire dept. and 1st responders to travel our county roads, it will take many years to get this done without this grant.

The Competitive Highway Bridge Program Grant will be a great appreciated by so many people, it will allow our county to use the limited resources we have now, on other projects. This grant will allow us to continue making our county great and safe with less financial burdens.

Sincerely,



Tim Jantz

City Mayor, Of Manchester, Ok.

City of Medford

November 5, 2018

The Honorable Secretary Elaine L. Chao
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

Oklahomans that choose to live in rural Oklahoma, do so for many reasons. The beautiful scenery, the abundant wildlife, the many types of agriculture including both farming and ranching, and of course, the unhurried way of life away from the hustle and bustle of the urban lifestyle.

People in rural Oklahoma are essential in keeping those in the State of Oklahoma, as well as the United States of America, well fed by the many crops that are grown here and by the ranchers that raise cattle, pigs, sheep, and goats. We supply oil, natural gas, and wind energy to provide energy to vehicles, buildings, and production plants. We have some of the top colleges in Oklahoma right here in Northwest Oklahoma and produce teachers, nurses, and business leaders. Grant County, located in the heart of Northwest Oklahoma, contributes many services and products to the citizens of Grant County, as well as those around the nation.

Grant County is a shining example of diversity when you look at the many occupations around our area. Many of our employers are located outside of the incorporated city limits or they rely on transporting their products or traveling along the county roads on a daily basis. Some of our companies use heavy trucks to make deliveries or deliver heavy equipment. Farm machinery has grown in size and weight the past twenty years which puts them above the weight limit for our dilapidated bridges. Our farmers, business employees, and those in the oil and gas production industry, often have to drive extra miles to detour around bridges because of the reduced weight limits.

The City of Medford fully supports the grant application for new bridges in Grant County and we respectfully request your consideration for funding. Having deficient bridges negatively affects our commerce and trade in Grant County and limits our economic development growth. Unfortunately, Grant County has one of the highest numbers of road miles in the United States and has an extremely high number of inadequate bridges. By providing funding for bridges in Grant County, you will be preserving the many professions that use our county roads on a daily bases and reduce the extra expense they have to endure every day in order to conduct their business, farming and ranching operations.

Sincerely,



Dea Mandevill
City Manager

**PO Box 123
615 N. Front St.
Medford, OK 73759**

**580-395-2823
580-395-3122 (Fax)
cityofmedfordok@yahoo.com**

City of Medford

November 5, 2018

The Honorable Secretary Elaine L. Chao
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington DC 20590
United States

Dear Secretary Chao:

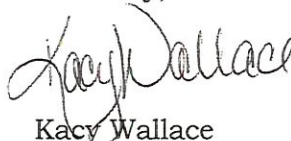
When someone has an emergency and they call 911 for an ambulance, seconds matter. Minutes feel like hours to the person waiting for help to arrive. Grant County is limited to three ambulance services for a county that is 22 by 26 miles with a population that is largely rural. The vast majority of our roads are comprised of dirt or rock rather than asphalt. Because we are in a rural area, most of our roads are left to the Grant County Commissioners to repair and replace. With very limited funds, the weight limit is often reduced on the bridges rather than them being replaced. Over time, the bridges are eventually closed because of lack of funds.

When seconds do matter and it's imperative to get a patient to the hospital, closed roads and detours increase our response time and delay the patient's arrival at the hospital. We need to have direct access to our patients to get to them in the shortest amount of time possible. If Grant County is chosen for a bridge grant, our response times will be reduced and patients can receive care in a more timely manner.

If Grant County is chosen for the Competitive Highway Bridge Grant, they will be able to bundle the grant money and get as many as 34 bridges replaced. By bundling, they save thousands of grant dollars because they will be able to bid the bridges with one bid package. This proves that the commissioners are dedicated to spending the grant money in the most diligent way to make sure they get as many bridges as possible with the grant.

Please support Grant County as a recipient of the Competitive Highway Bridge Grant. These funds won't just replace bridges, it will provide a much quicker response time for emergency services for the fire department, ambulance services, and police and sheriff departments. With Grant County being at the top of the list of deficient bridges nationwide, I hope they will be chosen so that bridges can be replaced and our emergency services will have direct access to our citizens.

Sincerely,



Kacy Wallace
Medford Ambulance Service

**PO Box 123
615 N. Front St.
Medford, OK 73759**

**580-395-2823
580-395-3122 (Fax)
cityofmedfordok@yahoo.com**

City of Medford

November 5, 2018

The Honorable Secretary Elaine L. Chao
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington DC 20590
United States

Dear Secretary Chao:

I'm writing in support of the grant application for Grant County for new bridges through the Competitive Highway Bridge Grant. As you are aware, Grant County has 174 deficient bridges which causes a hardship for the Medford Fire Department when responding to fire calls. Before we can leave the station to respond to a fire, we have to look at the county road map to see if any bridges will cause a detour because of their condition.

Over the years, our fleet of fire trucks have gotten heavier and wider, with the county bridges being so old and dilapidated, many of them cannot support the weight of our trucks and some are too narrow for us to pass. Bridges being closed or with reduced weight limits, cause delays in our response and fire suppression. Grant County Commissioners are responsible for one of the highest road mile counties in Oklahoma. This causes their budget to be extremely tight just making sure the roads and ditches are in good shape. I'm sure you've heard of "Red Dirt" Oklahoma, which means that after any rain, the roads have to be graded and put back in shape thus reducing the amount of money left for bridge maintenance or replacement.

I've served at the Fire Chief of the Medford Fire Department for 30 years so I've traveled the county roads many times. I've seen firsthand the need to have the bridges replaced. If Grant County receives the grant and is able to replace nearly 35 bridges at one time, they will have sufficient savings by being able to bid and purchase the bridge materials at a lower costs thus proving their commitment to the county roads and their efficiency of spending grant money.

The benefits of new bridges in Grant County would help out all of the fire departments in Grant County by providing a direct route to the fire scene and reducing the time it takes to actually start fighting the fire. Because of the limited budget of Grant County, the high number of road miles, the extremely high number of bridges, and the commitment of the County Commissioners to improve our county roads, I ask that you please choose Grant County as a recipient for this year's funding.

Sincerely,



Dennis Brittain
Medford Fire Chief

**PO Box 123
615 N. Front St.
Medford, OK 73759**

**580-395-2823
580-395-3122 (Fax)
cityofmedfordok@yahoo.com**

MEDFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY

123 South Main Street
Medford, Oklahoma 73759
580 395 2342
Charlene Moss, Public Librarian

November 13, 2018

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao
Secretary, U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Chao,

I am writing in full support of an application to the Competitive Highway Bridge Program (CHBP) grant being submitted by the Oklahoma Department of Transportation (DOT) in partnership with Grant County.

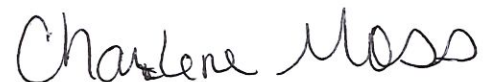
The City of Medford Library provides services for all people of Grant County. As the librarian, I engage with a vast number of county residents and see a wide variety of people from all economic levels of income. Our public library works to build a community's capacity for economic activity and resiliency. We provide early literacy services that reach out to young children and families that contribute to long-term economic success. With an array of public computers, Internet access and media products, we are the first point of entry from many new technology users, preparing many for job readiness including search and application information on line. We are the source for new online business databases and provide small business resources and programs. Our public library buildings are catalysts for physical development because we are a frequented local destination.

The public library provides powerful tools for the county and their residents seeking to expand, diversify, attract and build new businesses and technology to not just maintain, but more importantly to develop and grow a more vibrant economy right here in Grant County.

Our public library has information that shows that Grant County has 174 structurally deficient bridges, more than the Oklahoma DOT has on their statewide system. Bridge closures or limits on vehicle weights adversely affect travel time, freight movements for all industries and emergency response times. This new innovation of bundling will enable Grant County to replace 34 structurally deficient bridges of similar needs using a new engineered bridge standardized design. A single contract for this bridge bundling will create economic cost and time savings for Grant County, Oklahoma and America alike.

In my opinion, the Grant County bridge bundling would be a huge benefit to the county, the state of Oklahoma and to the entire Nation, allowing America to maintain its position, as a leader in the global economy.

Sincerely yours,



Charlene Moss

TOWN OF NASH
NASH PUBLIC WORKS AUTHORITY
NASH VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT
PO BOX 196/100 W GRAND, NASH, OK 73761--580-839-2829

November 5, 2018

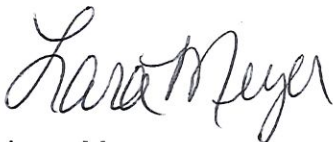
Dear Secretary Chao:

The Town of Nash is pleased to hear of the grant application opportunity for rural states. It is our understanding that this Federal Highway Administration is part of the Competitive Highway Bridge Program (CHBP). This Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) was published in the Federal Register.

As the Town Clerk and Treasurer of our small community, such funding is vital to the commerce in our area. Grant County is located in the heart of small grain and cattle production. The structures in our county are necessary to keep assessable avenues open for efficient transportation of products to the marketplace. Farming and ranching are the basis of existence for the communities in Grant County. Without the agricultural businesses, our community would not exist.

The Town of Nash is committed to help further the economic viability of Grant County in Oklahoma. We highly recommend this project to the Federal Highway Administration and look forward to hearing about its success.

Sincerely,



Lara Meyer
Clerk/Treasurer

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Form, AD-3027, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866)632-9992. Submit your completed complaint form or letter to USDA by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Ave, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax (202)680-7442, or by email at program.intake@usda.gov.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



NASH FIRE DEPARTMENT

P.O. BOX 10

NASH, OKLAHOMA 73761

Emergency - 911 Non-emergency (580) 839-2829

**The Honorable Secretary Elaine L. Chao
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590**

RE: CHBP- Competative Highway Bridge Program

Dear Secretary Chao,

The Nash Fire Department serves an area of 130 square miles in southwestern Grant County of Oklahoma. Our primary responsibility is the city of Nash, OK. However, we also serve a large rural area. We also mutual aid with the other fire departments in Grant County. Most of the time, the request comes to bring additional water and so our 3,000 gallon tanker is dispatched to the fire. As a result, we must drive our heavy tender down our roads and across our bridges. Many of those bridges are not capable of handling the weight and we must drive many miles out of the way to finally get to the fire. Many times the first responding fire units will already be out of water before the tenders arrive on scene.

This grant will enable Grant County to replace those inadequate and unsafe bridges and will enable our department to have a quicker and more successful outcome. Thank you for considering our county's application for this grant.

Sincerely Yours,

**Gary Lillie
Captain**

TOWN OF RENFROW
1291 McKINLEY BLVD.
MEDFORD, OK 73759

November 5, 2018

The Honorable Secretary Elaine L. Chao
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington DC 20590
United States

Dear Secretary Chao:

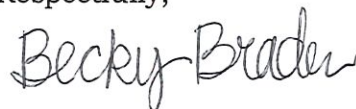
I was so excited when I heard that the Grant County Commissioners were applying for funding with the Competitive Highway Bridge Grant. The need for bridges in Grant County is a topic discussed by many people throughout the county. Our county roads are used by oil and gas producers, farmers, ranchers, the U.S. Post Office, and the citizens who live outside of incorporated areas.

As an employee of a rural farmer's cooperative, I work with farmers that live and work in rural Grant County. I personally know the frustration that comes with reduced weight limits on bridges or the requirement for a three or four mile detour just to get their crop from the farm to the elevator because numerous bridges are out of service.

I know the Grant County Commissioners do all they can to keep the bridges in working order but with limited funds to replace or repair them, they are losing the battle to keep the bridges in working order. The Town of Renfrow is mainly comprised of farm families that moved to town, but they travel to their farms on a regular basis, often having to cross dangerous bridges or go around a section line to get to their property. As machinery and equipment has increased in size over the years, the commissioners have not been able to keep up with the many bridges in Grant County. Our county ranks at the top for deficient bridges nationwide and is in the top five in Oklahoma, so it's imperative that these bridges get replaced soon.

As a Boardmember for the Town of Renfrow, I fully support this grant application and ask that you choose Grant County for funding this year.

Respectfully,



Becky Braden
Renfrow Board Trustee

TOWN OF WAKITA

1651 Main Street
P.O. Box 53
Wakita, OK 73771

Board of Trustees:

Debbie George, Mayor
Judy Bellin, Trustee
Jeffrey P. Schuelke, Trustee
Jacob Smith, Trustee

Town Clerk

Kathy Morrison
townwak@pdi.net
Phone 580-594-2200
Fax 580-594-2539

November 7, 2018

The Honorable
Secretary Elaine L. Chao
US Dept. of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao,

I am the Mayor of a small rural town of 344 residents in Wakita, Oklahoma. On behalf of the Town of Wakita, OK, I want to express our full support of Grant Co., OK applying for a Competitive Highway Bridge Program Grant. I know how important grants are to make necessary improvements to our infrastructures. Bundling of the grant will assist every town in Grant Co.

As a Mayor, I understand and daily witness the benefits and improvements that grants can make in a community. We are a rural farming community and rely on the farmers and residents to support the local businesses and Farming Cooperatives. Good roads and bridges are vital to getting the crops to our grain elevators and the farmers into town to shop at our businesses. Our children rely on those bridges to get them to school. Our Fire and Ambulance services need safe and fast access to emergency calls. We have a very good working relationship with Grant County. We have a mutual aid agreement with them and rely on their help when necessary.

As Mayor, it is my obligation to look after the welfare of our citizens, our commerce and public safety. I totally support this bridge project and am excited about seeing the future benefits the project can bring to Wakita, Oklahoma.

Sincerely,



Debbie George, Mayor
Town of Wakita, OK

TOWN OF WAKITA

1651 Main Street
P.O. Box 53
Wakita, OK 73771

Board of Trustees:

Debbie George, Mayor
Judy Bellin, Trustee
Jeffrey P. Schuelke, Trustee
Jacob Smith, Trustee

Town Clerk

Kathy Morrison
townwak@pdi.net
Phone 580-594-2200
Fax 580-594-2539

November 7, 2018

The Honorable
Secretary Elaine L. Chao
US Dept. of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao,

I am the Fire Chief of the Town of Wakita, Oklahoma. We have a 10 member all volunteer Fire Dept. The Department would like to go on record as being in support of Grant Co., OK as they apply for a Competitive Highway Bridge Program Grant.

We are in rural north central Oklahoma and defend a five (5) mile radius around Wakita. Most of that area has bridges that need repairs, improvements or replacement. A majority of our fire calls are to grass fires and time is critical in responding. Having good bridges is crucial to our success in stopping the spread of grass fires. We also rely heavily on the surrounding Fire Depts. for mutual aid for large grass fires and they need to have quick, safe passage over rural bridges to get to the rural locations.

The Wakita Fire Dept. is committed to fire safety and we are fully in support of this grant request. We hope to hear that this grant will be awarded to Grant County, Oklahoma.

Sincerely,

J. Day Williams, Fire Chief
Town of Wakita, OK





November 13, 2013

The Honorable Secretary Elaine L. Chao
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE
Washington D.C., 20590

Dear Secretary Chao;

Grant County, located in north central Oklahoma, is requesting a Competitive Highway Bridge Program Grant through the Federal Highway Administration. The project will include 34 new bridges at an approximate cost ranging from 12 to 15 million dollars. Currently, Grant County has 174 structurally deficient bridges that need to be replaced; however, they do not have the funds needed to accomplish this goal.

This grant would allow them to provide a safe commute for the children of Grant County to and from school. Public safety is a huge positive impact for Grant County if they receive this funding. Secondly, it allows for the safe transportation of agricultural and other commodities to the marketplaces in the US and other world markets. All of this will create economic growth for Grant County as well as the state of Oklahoma.

The Northern Oklahoma Development Authority fully supports Grant County's Competitive Highway Bridge Program application.

Sincerely,

Jonathon Cross
Executive Director
Northern Oklahoma Development Authority
(580) 237-4810





Wheatland Resource Conservation & Development

2101 North Ash Street

Ponca City, OK 74601

Phone: 580-234-8331

Email: wheatlandrcd@yahoo.com

November 12, 2018

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao
Secretary, U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Chao,

I write to express the Wheatland Resource Conservation & Development's (RC & D) support for the Competitive Highway Bridge Program (CHBP) grant project in Grant County, Oklahoma in partnership with the Oklahoma Department of Transportation. This project exemplifies a regional approach to further state and national economic development, infrastructure improvement and safety priorities.

Wheatland RC & D is a public non-profit 501(c)3 organization that is governed by a grassroots council with members from the Grant County area. Our purpose is to accelerate business development to improve the general level of economic activity. We work with local banks and REI to assist entrepreneurs in establishing new businesses or expand existing businesses by utilizing our Revolving Loan Fund and grants from the Joint Opportunities for Building Success (JOBS) programs. We have partnered with local government and local businesses to provide schools and other entities with printers, playground equipment, walking trails, pavilions, and native plants and trees. Some of these projects were completed in Grant County.

As an RC & D we are concerned about the existing businesses, especially the agricultural and energy industry, in Grant County and their ability to stay competitive in a business environment where transportation costs are vital to their bottom line. Grant County is challenged in maintaining 1,920 public road miles and 3,000 plus bridge and bridge-like structures, 174 them rated structurally deficient.

The opportunity to bundle 34 like-kind structurally deficient bridges into a single contract would be prudent. Beyond saving time and money, a key element is to engineer 3 to 5 bridge standards that can be a reproducible model for future projects in all 77 counties in Oklahoma.

Please seriously consider this CHBP grant application, it will have a great impact on the future growth and stability of the economy in Grant County, Oklahoma and the Nation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Matt Gard". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Matt Gard
President



Deer Creek-Lamont Public Schools

P.O. Box 10, Lamont, OK 74643

www.dcla.k12.ok.us

Barbara Regier

Superintendent

bregier@dclak12.org

580-388-4335

November 9, 2018

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao
Secretary, U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Chao,

I am writing to express my full support of the Competitive Highway Bridge Program grant application being submitted by the Oklahoma Department of Transportation in partnership with Grant County Oklahoma.

As Superintendent of Deer Creek-Lamont Schools, safe rural roads and bridge infrastructure are a concern for transporting our students to and from school each day. Our buses travel many miles daily to pick-up and deliver students to school. Closed roads and unsafe bridges increase the number of miles buses travel, time students spend riding the bus to and from school, and wear and tear on buses. Although our county strives to keep our bus routes in the best condition possible, structurally deficient bridges in our school district in Grant County have added a burden to our school district.

Our communities are small, and our economy is largely based on agriculture crops, livestock, oil, gas, and wind energy. The replacement of 34 bridges in Grant County will provide benefit to each of these businesses in our communities and provide economic growth as well as economic development, which in turn is a positive for our school district. Furthermore, the innovation of bundling the 34 like-kind bridges into one single contract will save money and time and make the most efficient use of the funds.

The Deer Creek-Lamont School District fully supports Grant County's application for the Competitive Highway Bridge Program (CHBP) grant. As a school, our main concern is the safety of our students, and the replacement of bridges in Grant County would greatly improve the routes our buses travel each day. We respectfully ask you to consider Grant County as a recipient of this grant.

Respectfully,

Barbara Regier
Superintendent

Timberlake

PUBLIC SCHOOLS

*P.O. Box 287
101 W. Sixth St
Helena, OK 73741*

*Superintendent
580.852.3307
580.852.3280 fax*

*Timberlake
High School
580.852.3281
580.852.8019 fax*

*Timberlake
Elementary School
580.626.4411
580.626.4414 fax*

Nov 6, 2018

To: U.S. Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao

Re: CHBP Grant

Dear Ms. Chao,

I am encouraged to be writing on behalf of our school district and Grant County, OK, in regards to the Competitive Highway Bridge Program Grant as sponsored by the U.S. Department of Education, Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. It is rewarding to understand that attention is being given to the state of our current transportation infrastructure through the awarding of monies to address our aging bridges.

Area-wise, I am Superintendent of the second largest such district in the state with over 600 sq miles. Providing safe transport for our students is an on-going challenge. With such a large, rural setting, we encounter roads and bridges in all states of disrepair and, I know from first hand work, our County Commissioners are always addressing both repair and improvement of such, especially for our bus routes (which is always MUCH appreciated). Having personally traveled the routes and roads of our district, I am quite aware of the need for additional services to them and am also fully aware of the funding challenges that Counties face in dealing with these issues. Please consider this letter in support of awarding our County this grant, as it will most definitely make a significant improvement in our continued efforts in providing safe transportation for our students.

In close, it is my hope, on behalf of the students and parents of this district, that our County will be the recipient of the additional funds required to make the much needed improvements necessary in support of our transportation requirements. I look forward to understanding that your support of our request will be provided and to the lessening of issues that our current bridge system now faces.

If I may be any further assistance, please don't hesitate to contact me, and, as always, I remain,

Educationally Yours,



Mark Newton, Supt
Timberlake Public Schools





College of Engineering, Architecture and Technology

Office of the Assistant Dean, Engineering Extension
214 Advanced Technology Research Center
Stillwater, Oklahoma 74078-5013
Phone: 405-744-5140; Fax: 405-744-7545
Email: ed.kirtley@okstate.edu

November 13, 2018

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao
Secretary, U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

RE: Competitive Highway Bridge Program Grant Application
Oklahoma Department of Transportation and Grant County, Oklahoma

Dear Secretary Chao,

I am writing this letter in full support of Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT) and Grant County, Oklahoma's application for the Competitive Highway Bridge Program grant. Being awarded this grant to repair thirty-four bridges would make a tremendous difference for the farmers and ranchers as well as for the oil, gas and wind energies. But most importantly, it would improve the safety for the school buses and emergency services.

Oklahoma State University works closely with ODOT and Grant County offering hands-on training to ensure the safety of Oklahoma's roads and bridges.

Grant County's local economy is largely based on agriculture with their principal crops being wheat, corn, soybeans, feed grains and alfalfa along with their livestock of cattle, hogs and horses. These agriculture products are very important to national and international trade. Having deficient bridges can be a detriment to a farmer's ability to transport his crops and livestock safely. Ensuring a sound bridge infrastructure will make a big impact on the economic growth for not only schools, rural mail carriers, emergency services, etc., but for businesses and residents alike.

The challenge moving forward is the bridges need to be built for the future, not for the present. Bridges must be built wider to accommodate the wider vehicles and farm equipment and stronger to withstand the heavier load limits.

Being able to bundle the 34 like-kind bridges into one single contract will allow the savings of money and time and is an innovation plan for success.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity for me to voice my full support for this project. I highly recommend that ODOT and Grant County be awarded this grant. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Ed Kirtley', written over the word 'Sincerely,'.

Ed Kirtley, Assistant Dean
College of Engineering, Architecture and Technology

Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service



Grant County

112 E. Guthrie, Room 301 Courthouse
Medford, Oklahoma 73759-1246

Phone: (580) 395-2134

Fax: (580) 395-2615

November 13, 2018

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao
Secretary, U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Chao,

I am writing in support of the application for the Competitive Highway Bridge Program (CHBP) grant being submitted by Grant County, Oklahoma in corporation with the Oklahoma Department of Transportation (DOT)

Grant County was opened for settlement September 16, 1893 during the Cherokee Strip Land Run. County government was officially organized in October 1893 and one-year later townships with boards for road districts were laid out. By 1933, county commissioners became responsible for the county-owned highway maintenance.

I serve as the Oklahoma State University (OSU) Agriculture/4-H Youth Development Extension Educator through the Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service serving everyone in Grant County. Some of the services that I provide are to promote and increase opportunities for agricultural enterprises along with youth, family and community development. A vast amount of my time is spent out in the field not behind a desk in my office. I drive the county roads and bridges and have great discussions with the county folks about our rural infrastructure.

We have larger vehicles traveling on our roads and bridges and at speeds faster than originally planned. Yet these bridges are some of the most critical bridges for the movement of freight and providing vital connections for our citizens. New agricultural combines are 19 feet wide, tire-to-tire with 36 to 40 foot headers. We're seeing farm equipment get larger and heavier and the agricultural output is getting much higher. Legal weight limits on highways in 1923 was 28,000 pounds and in 1975 it was increased to 80,000 pounds, the same for today's standards. The same trucks and traffic that travels across the state highways also travels county roads.

In Grant County agriculture is the largest industry, generating \$96.8 million in economic output. The 1,920 road miles and 3,000 plus bridges and bridge-like structures in rural Grant County play a critical role in the movement of agricultural products, manufacturing goods and energy resources from our communities to domestic and global markets.

The advanced enhancement to bundle 34 of the 174 Grant County structurally deficient bridges into one single contract is exciting. This would reduce our structurally deficient bridges by nearly 20 percent. The economic benefits would include expedited project delivery, reduced cost and contracting efficiency.

Thank you for your consideration to award a CHBP grant to bundle county owned bridged.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Kassie K. Junghans'.

Kassie Junghans



The UNIVERSITY of OKLAHOMA.
Cooperative Institute for Mesoscale Meteorological Studies
(CIMMS)

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao
Secretary, U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Chao,

I am writing in support of the Oklahoma Department of Transportation (DOT) Competitive Highway Bridge Program (CHBP) application also known as the Rural Bridge Grant. The Oklahoma DOT, in partnership with Grant County, would use these grant funds to repair and/or replace structurally deficient bridges on the county highway system.

Bridges are an integral part of the overall economy of the United States, and these funds will help rural states and counties ensure that their bridges remain safe and well-maintained. Currently Grant County has the most structurally deficient bridges in the state of Oklahoma. This CHBP grant would allow county bridges of like-kind structure to be bundled into a single contract.

Oklahoma DOT and Grant County are seeking an innovative approach to maintain mobility and ensure resiliency. The plan is to bundle bridges with a large number of structures into one contract using a design, build, finance delivery model. In this way, a large number of structures can be addressed in a much shorter time period, saving both time and money.

The CHBP funding for Grant County will serve people in a 1000 square mile area in north central Oklahoma along the Kansas border. The U.S. Department of Energy's Atmospheric Radiation Measurement (ARM) Southern Great Plains Atmospheric Observatory and User Facility is located in southeastern Grant County near the town of Lamont. This facility has been in existence since 1992 and the data collected there are helping scientists across the U.S. and world better model aspects of Earth's climate, especially the role of clouds. Sufficient access to the facility is needed by not only the people who work there every day, but also by the many visiting scientists who deploy state-of-the-art instrumentation at the site to better measure key atmospheric properties, and who contribute to the local economy due to their presence. The NOAA Cooperative Institute for Mesoscale Meteorological Studies (CIMMS) at the University of Oklahoma, my home organization, also has been part of the ARM Program, first as the Site Scientist for the Southern Great Plains facility, and since July 2000 as the Data Quality Office for the data collected at this facility and at ARM facilities deployed all over the world. So, this research site is important to a number of organizations, and the local economy.

Thank you for your consideration for the Oklahoma DOT and Grant County grant application.

Sincerely,

Randy A. Pepler
Associate Director, CIMMS – University of Oklahoma
Manager, ARM Program Data Quality Office

120 David L. Boren Blvd., Suite 2100, Norman, Oklahoma 73072-7304
CELL: (405) 325-3041 FAX: (405) 325-3098
WEBSITE: cimms.ou.edu





SPACE SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING CENTER
University of Wisconsin-Madison

7 November 2018

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao
Secretary, U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Chao,

I am writing in support of the Oklahoma Department of Transportation (DOT) Competitive Highway Bridge Program (CHBP) application also known as the Rural Bridge Grant. The Oklahoma DOT, in partnership with Grant County, would use these grant funds to repair and/or replace structurally deficient bridges on the county highway system.

Bridges are an integral part of the overall economy of the United States, and these funds will help rural states and counties ensure that their bridges remain safe and well-maintained. Currently Grant County has the most structurally deficient bridges in the state of Oklahoma. This CHBP grant would allow county bridges of like-kind structure to be bundled into a single contract.

Oklahoma DOT and Grant County are seeking an innovative approach to maintain mobility and ensure resiliency. The plan is to bundle bridges with a large number of structures into one contract using a design, build, finance delivery model. In this way, a large number of structures can be addressed in a much shorter time period, saving both time and money.

The CHBP funding for Grant County will serve people in a 1000 square mile area in north central Oklahoma along the Kansas border. Of particular importance to us, these improvements will greatly benefit the US DOE ARM Southern Great Planes (SGP) site in Lamont, OK. This is a very important US facility where very sophisticated instruments are deployed to make measurements to better understand and predict severe storms. The SGP site is the world's largest "laboratory without walls" for studying atmospheric processes. Over the years we have deployed and helped maintain several instruments at the SGP site. We have also participated in numerous field campaigns to study atmospheric stability and severe storms. Thus, we recognize first hand the importance of structurally sound bridges that will serve all vital employees of the SGP site, and the significant number of visitors consisting of researchers, technicians, and other groups that support ongoing research there.

Thank you for your consideration for the Oklahoma DOT and Grant County grant application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mark Mulligan".

Mark Mulligan
Executive Director
University of Wisconsin
Space Science and Engineering Center
Email: mark.mulligan@ssec.wisc.edu