

**RUSTY RHOADES
COMMISSIONER**

**MARY
GOVERNOR**



FALLIN

**STATE OF OKLAHOMA
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY**

November 26, 2018

The Honorable Elaine Chao
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao,

The Oklahoma Highway Patrol is offering its support for the State of Oklahoma's Competitive Highway Bridge Program (CHBP) application to secure funding to rehabilitate eight and replace two bridges on I-35 in Kay County, located in north central Oklahoma, adjacent to the Kansas border.

Located in the middle of the geographic United States, I-35 carries a great deal of automobile and truck traffic. As freight increases in size and magnitude, maintaining our bridges in a state of good repair is essential to the lifeblood of our economy and the safety of our citizens.

The Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT) proposes an innovative approach to rehabilitating or replacing 10 bridges over I-35 near the northern border of Oklahoma. Under a more traditional approach, ODOT would be confronted with few reasonable re-route options. The accelerated and innovative construction approach allows for rolling roadblocks to be used along I-35 to allow traffic to travel at a reduced speed instead of a long detour putting vehicles on local and state routes imposing additional unexpected and potentially unsafe impacts on the local network.

Additionally, it is in the best interest of Oklahoma that safe, optimized traffic flows are maintained on I-35. The interstate is an important freight corridor nationally and to the state. The Oklahoma Highway Patrol is committed to helping ODOT provide a safe and efficient travel route for all travelers through Oklahoma.

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The Oklahoma Department of Transportation is bundling the cost of 10 bridges for a total estimated project cost of \$15,302,280. The grant request is for \$ \$6,810,900

We respectfully request your careful consideration of this Kay County, Oklahoma, I-35 Bridge Bundle application.

Sincerely,

Colonel Michael S. Harrell
Chief of the Oklahoma Highway Patrol

CC: J. Michael Patterson, Oklahoma Secretary of Transportation