



City of Seminole

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November 26, 2018

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

Dear Secretary Chao:

I am writing this letter in support of the Seminole County US 270 application for Competitive Highway Bridge Program (CHBP) funds being filed by the Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT). We are pleased that the Administration for is promoting this important infrastructure assistance project!

Seminole County is located southeast of the Oklahoma City metropolitan area, in southeast Oklahoma. The Town of Seminole was established in 1906, named after the Seminole Indian Tribe. It was incorporated as a city on December 26, 1924. Its early years were characterized almost solely by oil field exploration. The current economy certainly thrives with oil and gas but we have been able to diversify into food, fiberglass, textiles, education and a myriad of other businesses. All of these businesses depend upon a transportation system that can carry equipment, material and finished product of increasing size and magnitude. Thus keeping our bridges in a state of good repair is essential.

The improvements proposed by ODOT include seven bridges over approximately seven miles. Six bridges (currently in fair or poor condition) are planned for replacement; one in good repair (showing obstruction of culvert barrels and severe silt buildup) is planned for rehabilitation. The proposed project cost is \$14.2 million and the Department is using its ingenuity by bundling 7 individual projects together and planning to use lightweight granular backfill – both of which will expedite project delivery, minimize cost, and provide a better transportation system.

Seminole is a vibrant Oklahoma community on US 270, which crossed diagonally through the state of Oklahoma. Improvements to the bridges on US 270 will help provide needed support to this this community as well as to commercial and personal users of the highway system from various parts of the state and nation.

As the City Manager of Seminole, I would sincerely appreciate your support of this important infrastructure project in Oklahoma that will create and retain jobs and improve the quality of life in our state.

Sincerely,

Steve Saxon, Manager
City of Seminole

CC: Oklahoma Department of Transportation