

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

March 15, 2021

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

The Oklahoma Congressional Delegation is pleased to submit a letter of support for the Oklahoma Department of Transportation's (ODOT's) Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) grant application for the reconstruction and widening of a key commuter portion of I-40 in Oklahoma County.

This project will reconstruct and widen five miles of I-40 to improve safety, increase capacity, and alleviate congestion on a designated alternative fuel corridor. The \$117 million project will improve access to Tinker Air Force Base (AFB), which is the second-largest employer in the Oklahoma City metro area. This portion of the I-40 corridor also connects a fast-growing rural area to the metro area, which lacks any viable alternative routes for this level of traffic. Just to the east is the recently completed \$75 million I-40 widening between I-240 and Choctaw Rd. Connecting improvements to this newly widened section will be critical for delivering goods around the Nation and improving the safety of Oklahoma's roadways. The I-40 project will also address functionally obsolete bridges along I-40 eliminating conflict points at the Douglas Blvd. interchange by upgrading it to a Single Point Urban Interchange (SPUI). This will be the fourth SPUI on Oklahoma's highway system when constructed.

ODOT has invested significantly in this stretch of the I-40 system. This 5-mile section of I-40 between Douglas Blvd. and I-240 in eastern Oklahoma County was put into service in 1963 at the birth of Oklahoma's interstate system. With the Oklahoma City metro area's low cost of living and Tinker AFB expanding, I-40 will continue to play an increasingly important role in connecting outlying communities to these economic hubs. These upgrades will improve safety and efficiency for more than 50,000 vehicles per day, of which 15 percent are commercial trucks. These crucial grant funds will help advance this critical project's timetable by five years.

We thank you in advance for your serious consideration of ODOT's application for this INFRA grant. Please contact Victor Sarmiento at victor_sarmiento@inchofe.senate.gov if you need any further assistance as you consider this important project.

Sincerely,



James M. Inhofe
United States Senator



James Lankford
United States Senator



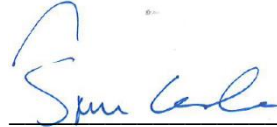
Kevin Hern
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Markwayne Mullin
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Stephanie Bice
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