

# 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 this letter in support of the Oklahoma Department of Transportation's (ODOT's) application for an Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) grant to continue and complete critically needed improvements to the I-44 corridor in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

The segment between the Arkansas River and the I-244 junction in west Tulsa was built before the creation of the interstate system and is the oldest remaining section of interstate that ODOT maintains. This antiquated section stretches through an under-served area of Tulsa with inadequate and poorly designed access points to those neighborhoods and businesses, along with narrow lanes and deteriorated pavements. Two immediate issues are further compounding the critical needs in this area: the construction of a new turnpike connecting all of west Tulsa into this corridor, which will create new business and residential growth; and an extremely congested choke-point at the Arkansas River where traffic narrows into this older corridor, resulting in near-daily vehicle crashes.


This \$205 million project will improve an existing interchange at the I-44/US-75 junction, reconstruct and widen I-44 over the Arkansas River, and improve Interstate on- and off-ramps to connect under-served portions of Tulsa. Currently, ODOT is also investing \$90 million to replace five deficient bridges in this same corridor. Once all phases are complete, this area will see a reduction in the near-standstill congestion and open itself to growth opportunities, much like what has been seen with other improvements to I-44 in Tulsa during the past decade.

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](mailto: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  
Member of Congress




Markwayne Mullin  
Member of Congress



Frank D. Lucas  
Member of Congress



Tom Cole  
Member of Congress



Stephanie Bice  
Member of Congress