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**Congress of the United States**  
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May 19, 2022

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I strongly support the Oklahoma Department of Transportation's (ODOT's) application for the Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant Opportunity (MPDG).

The I-35 corridor is crucial for the movement of freight and people across the country and has a major economic impact on the national economy as part of the National Highway Freight Network. As part of the Primary Highway Freight System this network of I-35 is recognized as one of the most critical portions of the U.S. freight system. Mainline capacity expansion at priority locations is integral to relieve bottlenecks along this freight corridor, as well as, limiting traffic congestion has added benefits of improving air quality and travel time.

This network of projects will include going from 4 to 6 lanes of traffic from mile marker 8 to mile marker 3 connecting an already scheduled project in collaboration with TxDOT to have 6 lanes of travel at the state's border. This project will also widen I-35 from 4 to 6 lanes of travel from the Canadian River 7.5 miles south adding much needed expansion to support traffic flow just south of Oklahoma City including an innovative diverging diamond interchange with SH-9W. This network of projects contributes to the resiliency and state of good repair along vital freight routes by investing in economic success.

I thank you in advance for your strong consideration of ODOT's application for this MPDG grant. Please contact Sofia Deiro, on my staff, at [sofia.deiro@mail.house.gov](mailto:sofia.deiro@mail.house.gov) if you need any further assistance as you consider this important project.

Sincerely,

Tom Cole  
Member of Congress