

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 23, 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 am pleased to submit this letter in support of the Oklahoma Department of Transportation's (ODOT's) application for the Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant (MPDG) to make operational improvements to the I-35 corridor in southern Oklahoma.

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. I-35 is part of the Primary Highway Freight System and is recognized as one of the most critical portions of the U.S. freight system. This project will make mainline capacity improvements at priority locations that are integral to relieve bottlenecks along this freight corridor and to limit traffic congestion.

This network of projects will include widening from 4 to 6 lanes of traffic from mile marker 3 to mile marker 8, connecting an already scheduled project in collaboration with TxDOT to have 6 lanes of travel at the Oklahoma-Texas border. This project will also widen I-35 from 4 to 6 lanes of travel starting 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 will contribute to the resiliency and state of good repair of the interstate system, and will improve supply chain connectivity along this vital freight route.

I thank you in advance for your strong consideration of ODOT's application for this MPDG grant. Please contact Victor Sarmiento, on my staff, 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