

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 a Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant (MPDG) to continue and complete critically needed improvements to the I-44 and US-75 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 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. 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.

I thank you in advance for your strong consideration of ODOT's application for this MPDG application. Please contact Victor Sarmiento at victor_sarmiento@inhofe.senate.gov if you need any further assistance as you consider this important project.

Sincerely,



James M. Inhofe
United States Senator