

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

August 18, 2023

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

We are pleased to write this letter in support of the Oklahoma Department of Transportation's (ODOT) application for the Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant (MPDG) program. The proposed project seeks to improve segments of I-35 in McClain County which would ensure a critical corridor in the United States is able to continue freight connections and support the economy.

The I-35 project corridor is integral to the nation's freight movement and features an approximate 20% truck share while also serving commuters in major metropolitan areas. The corridor is an economic engine for Oklahoma, the Chickasaw Nation, Texas, and the United States through the movement of people and goods. As a part of the National Highway Freight Network (NHFN), I-35 serves as one of the principal connections between the United States and Mexico. The section of I-35 in Southern Oklahoma experiences a higher-than-normal collision rate and continues to create congestion, slowing the movement of people and freight.

The *Interstate 35 Capacity Increases in McClain County, Oklahoma* project will widen the mainline from four-lanes to six-lanes and provide wider inside shoulders to increase safety. The project would provide additional capacity on the congested corridor which is expected to reduce travel times and increase reliability for all users. A less congested corridor along with the wider inside shoulder is also expected to reduce the number of collisions. Completion of the project would ensure that I-35 continues to facilitate national and international freight movement, increase safety, and resiliency for future Oklahomans.

Thank you in advance for your strong consideration of ODOT's application for the MPDG program. Please contact our offices if you need any further assistance as you consider this important proposal.

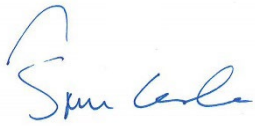
Sincerely,



James Lankford
United States Senator



Markwayne Mullin
United States Senator



Tom Cole
Member of Congress



Josh Brecheen
Member of Congress

August 17, 2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
U.S. Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

RE: **Interstate 35 Capacity Increase in McClain County- MPDG RURAL**

Honorable Secretary Buttigieg:

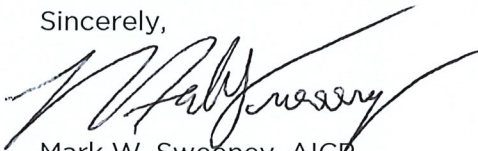
On behalf of the Association of Central Oklahoma Governments (ACOG), I am writing in support of the Oklahoma Department of Transportation's (ODOT) 2023/2024 Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant (MPDG) application for the widening of I-35 through northern McClain County.

The Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT) is seeking a Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant Program (MPDG) for the I-35 Corridor Priority Improvements project. The project is located on I-35, which is a critical corridor connecting Texas through Oklahoma City to Kansas and provides freight connections supporting the economic vitality of Oklahoma and the United States. The project focuses on a segment within McClain County from mile marker 98 (Johnson Road) to mile marker 104 (SH-74 in Goldsby), which would widen the mainline from 4-lanes to 6-lanes.

The I-35 project corridor is integral to the nation's freight movement and features an approximate 20 percent truck share while serving commuters in the major metropolitan area. I-35 facilitates national and international freight movement and is a primary artery for Oklahoma connecting the Oklahoma City area through multiple attractions and work centers (including existing and proposed development by the Chickasaw Nation). The corridor is an economic engine for the economies of Oklahoma, the Chickasaw Nation, Texas, and the United States.

ACOG strongly supports this project for its vital contribution to the region, state, and nation. We urge your support for full funding for the project. Thank you for your consideration. Please feel free to contact me if you have questions or if you require additional information.

Sincerely,



Mark W. Sweeney, AICP
Executive Director



August 10, 2023

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

Re: Interstate 35 Capacity Increase in McClain County – MPDG Rural

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

On behalf of the Southwest Oklahoma Regional Transportation Planning Organization (SORTPO) it is my pleasure to provide a letter supporting the Oklahoma Department of Transportation's submission of the McClain County Oklahoma Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant (MPDG) project on Interstate 35. This grant provides for the

- reconstruction of the interchange and bridge over I-35 at SH 74 in Goldsby, Oklahoma enhancing the safety and improving traffic flow and
- widening I-35 from 4 to 6 lanes along a 6.2-mile segment expanding capacity on a critical freight corridor relieving congestion.

This project aligns with national goals, national planning factors and the region's adopted transportation goals for safety, congestion reduction and freight movement and economic vitality. We strongly support this project for its vital contribution to the region, state, and nation. Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter.

Respectfully,

Julie Sanders

Julie Sanders
Director of Transportation
Southwest Oklahoma Regional Transportation Planning Organization
420 Sooner Dr.
Burns Flat, OK 73624
580-562-5010
julie@swoda.org

Mayor Mike Herrin
Trustee David White
Trustee Kari Madden



Trustee Darrell Ingram
Trustee Glenn Berglan
Clerk Sandy Jenkins

Wednesday, August 16, 2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
U.S. Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

RE: Interstate 35 Capacity Increase in McClain County- MPDG RURAL

Honorable Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of the Town of Goldsby, I am writing in support of the Oklahoma Department of Transportation's (ODOT) 2023/2024 MPDG application for the widening of I-35 through McClain County.

The widening of I-35 through McClain County is a necessary and long-overdue step to address the current congestion and traffic issues that have been affecting our region's economic growth and overall quality of life. The expansion of this vital transportation artery will undoubtedly alleviate traffic congestion, reduce travel times, promote economic development and most importantly enhance safety. Furthermore, it will foster a more efficient movement of goods and services, bolstering commerce and trade throughout the area.

I-35 is not only a vital transportation link for local commuters but also serves as a critical connector for interstate and regional travel. The proposed widening will not only benefit the immediate communities along the route but will also have a positive impact on neighboring counties and beyond. With the continuous growth of both residential and commercial developments in McClain County and its surroundings, the expansion of I-35 is essential to ensure that our infrastructure keeps pace with the demands of a rapidly evolving region.

The Town of Goldsby strongly supports this project for its vital contribution to the region, state and nation. We urge your support of full funding for the project. Thank you for your consideration. Please feel free to contact me if you have questions or if you require additional information.

Sincerely,

Adam Vossen
Town Administrator
Town of Goldsby, OK
Adam@TownofGoldsby.com
405-570-2091

Phone (405) 288-6675

Email: Info@townofgoldsbys.com

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100 E. Center Rd.
Goldsby, OK 73093



Wednesday, August 16, 2023

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

RE: Interstate 35 Capacity Increase in McClain County- MPDG RURAL

Honorable Secretary Buttigieg:

As the “*voice of trucking*” in Oklahoma, we represent the unified interest of our member companies that literally have a front row seat to the needs of infrastructure across our state. Having polled our members, the Oklahoma Trucking Association believes this project meets the desired goals state for the Oklahoma Department of Transportation's (ODOT) 2023/2024 MPDG application for the widening of I-35 through McClain County.

As “*the voice of trucking*” safety is imperative to the industry, and we believe the following to be beneficial: The project area experiences a higher-than-normal collision rate and congestion relative to the rest of the I-35 corridor. ODOT has put safety as a key priority for measuring performance and accountability, including eliminating fatal and injury collisions. Reduction of congestion would be the primary driver in reducing collisions in the priority segments as well as providing wider inside shoulders.

The Oklahoma Trucking Association strongly supports this project for its vital contribution to the region, state, and nation. We urge your support of full funding for the project. Thank you for your consideration and please feel free to call on us should you have questions or if you require additional information.

Sincerely,

Jim Newport
CEO/President
Oklahoma Trucking Association

Zac Kannady
Chairman

Mario Archaga
First Vice Chairman

Bobby Smith
Second Vice Chairman

Jim Newport
President & CEO



OKLAHOMA TECHNOLOGY & MAINTENANCE COUNCIL
COUNCIL OF OKLAHOMA TRUCKING ASSOCIATION

OKLAHOMA SAFETY & SECURITY COUNCIL
COUNCIL OF OKLAHOMA TRUCKING ASSOCIATION