

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 addresses needed improvements along the US-412 corridor which was recognized for future Interstate designation in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA).

The US-412 corridor recognized in the IIJA stretches from I-35 in Noble County, Oklahoma to I-49 in Springdale, Arkansas. The highway serves as the connector to three current interstates in both states: I-35, I-44, and I-49. ODOT and the Arkansas Department of Transportation (ARDOT) have partnered to begin the improvements needed to the corridor before designation can be obtained. The *US-412 Priority Improvements for Interstate Designation* project seeks to address several current at-grade crossings, improvements to an existing interchange, and seven miles of full-depth pavement reconstruction. Removal of the at-grade crossings will increase safety and efficiency on the highway while also bringing these sections of the highway corridor up to interstate standards.

The section of US-412 addressed by the project is a major economic driver for the state, serving the Tulsa Port of Catoosa, Port of Inola, Oakley's Port 33, and the MidAmerica Industrial Park. The highway itself is essential to freight movement across the state, including access routes to the McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System (MKARNS) which moves billions of dollars of freight all across the world. The project improvements promote resiliency, state of good repair, and economic development by investing in infrastructure that serves a vital role in connecting interstate freight movement.

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,



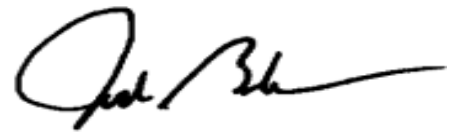
James Lankford
United States Senator



Markwayne Mullin
United States Senator



Kevin Hern
Member of Congress



Josh Brecheen
Member of Congress



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CHEROKEE NATION®
P.O. Box 948 • Tahlequah, OK 74465-0948
918-453-5000 • www.cherokee.org

Chuck Hoskin Jr.

Principal Chief

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Bryan Warner

Deputy Principal Chief

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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: US-412 Priority Improvements for Interstate Designation (2023/2024 MPDG INFRA/MEGA)

Honorable Secretary Buttigieg,

Cherokee Nation is one of the largest tribes in the United States with more than 440,000 tribal citizens worldwide. As a sovereign government and economic engine, Cherokee Nation invests in our region to create the conditions for growth for our citizens and reservation. We are committed to protecting our inherent sovereignty, preserving and promoting Cherokee culture, language and values, and to improving the quality of life for future generations of Cherokee Nation citizens.

Cherokee Nation plays an integral role in economic development of our region and wherever our people call home. In addition to our government-to-government relationship with the federal government, our relationships with regional partners like the MidAmerica Industrial Park (MAIP) demonstrate how, working side by side, we are collaborating to improve the lives of all our citizens and neighbors.

As the Principal Chief of the Cherokee Nation, I am pleased to convey our support for the Oklahoma Department of Transportation's (ODOT) 2023/2024 MPDG application for improvements to US-412 in the Cherokee Nation. We recognize this important investment to improve the usability and safety of US-412 and preparation for its eventual elevation to the Interstate Highway System. This highway is a vital artery through the Cherokee Nation, connecting us to our neighbors and facilitating the flow of commerce to critical hubs of industry like MAIP.

This is our home, and we value our long-term, mutually beneficial relationships with our regional economic development and industry partners. We stand ready to work alongside MAIP and ODOT to grow and sustain the regional economy through high-quality employment opportunities. As always, please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions which you may have or if I or my team may be of further assistance to you.

Respectfully,

Chuck Hoskin, Jr., *Principal Chief*
Cherokee Nation



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: US-412 Priority Improvements for Interstate Designation (2023/2024 MPDG INFRA/MEGA)

Honorable Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of INCOG, the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Tulsa region, I am writing to express strong support of the Oklahoma Department of Transportation's (ODOT) application for the Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant to assist with the US-412 Priority Improvements to meet standards necessary for Interstate Designation, as prioritized by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA).

Improvements to US-412 in Oklahoma are both necessary and urgent to provide for motorist safety, better facilitate traffic flow, improve freight movement, and meet the strategic goals of both ODOT and the region. The proposed interchange improvements, eliminating at-grade intersections, are an essential step to bring the facility up to interstate standards and pursue the designation of the highway corridor as an Interstate Highway as envisioned by Congress.

The corridor connects the Tulsa Metropolitan Region of over 1 million residents with the fast-growing region of Northwest Arkansas where major companies are headquartered. The project area in Rogers and Mayes County's directly connects four mega industrial sites with thousands of jobs and a home to both a future electric vehicle battery module manufacturing facility and solar cell and panel manufacturing facility.

INCOG strongly supports the US-412 Priority Improvements for the future Interstate Designation for its vital contribution to the region, state and nation. The proposed project supports a network that is critical to Oklahoma's economy and freight movement. We strongly 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rich Brierre", written in a cursive style.

Rich Brierre
Executive Director



**Board of County Commissioners
Mayes County, Oklahoma**

**Alva Martin, District No. 1
Darrell Yoder, District No. 2
Randy Pierce, District 3
Dana Thompson, Secretary**

**1 Court Place, Suite 140
Pryor, Ok 74361
Tel. 918-825-0639
Fax 918-825-3811**

Friday, August 11, 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: US-412 Priority Improvements for Interstate Designation (2023/2024 MPDG INFRA/MEGA)

Honorable Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of the Commissioner Mayes County District 2, I am writing to voice support of the Oklahoma Department of Transportation's (ODOT) 2023/2024 MPDG application for improvements to US-412.

Darrell Yoder 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,
Darrell Yoder
Mayes County Commissioner



Thursday, August 17, 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: US-412 Priority Improvements for Interstate Designation (2023/2024 MPDG INFRA/MEGA)

Honorable Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of the Oklahoma Ordnance Works Authority, a/k/a MidAmerica Industrial Park, I am writing to express strong support of the Oklahoma Department of Transportation's (ODOT) 2023/2024 MPDG application for improvements to US-412. As the largest Industrial Park in the region, we serve over 80 companies that employ over 4,500 people. The proposed improvements to US-412 are both necessary and urgent to provide for motorist safety, better facilitate traffic, improve freight movement and to meet the strategic goals of both ODOT and the region.

The Oklahoma Ordnance Works Authority strongly supports the US-412 priority improvements for its vital contribution to the region, state and nation. The proposed project supports a network that is critical to Oklahoma's economy and freight movement. We strongly 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Stewart".

David Stewart
Chief Administrative Officer and Trustee
MidAmerica Industrial Park

4075 SANDERS MITCHELL STREET – PRYOR OKLAHOMA 74361
918.825.3500 – FAX 918.825.4022
www.maip.com

O ♦ A ♦ K ♦ L ♦ E ♦ Y

www.BrucceOakley.com

PORTS

Oakley's Port 33 – 918-266-1490

Wednesday, August 9, 2023

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

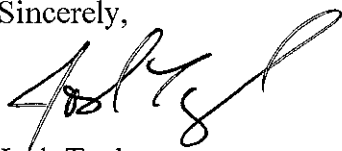
RE: US-412 Priority Improvements for Interstate Designation (2023/2024 MPDG INFRA/MEGA)

Honorable Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of Oakley's Port 33, I am writing to voice support of the Oklahoma Department of Transportation's (ODOT) 2023/2024 MPDG application for improvements to US-412.

Oakley's Port 33 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,



Josh Taylor
General Manager



Town of Chouteau Oklahoma

Brenda Cunningham, Mayor
PO Box 819/111 S. Lewis St.
Chouteau, OK 74337-0819

Friday, August 18, 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: US-412 Priority Improvements for Interstate Designation (2023/2024 MPDG INFRA/MEGA)

Honorable Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of the Town of Chouteau, I am writing to voice support of the Oklahoma Department of Transportation's (ODOT) 2023/2024 MPDG application for improvements to US-412.

The Town of Chouteau and the Chouteau Board of Trustees 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,

Brenda Cunningham, MSW, LCSW
Mayor, Town of Chouteau



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: US-412 Priority Improvements for Interstate Designation (2023/2024 MPDG INFRA/MEGA)

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 improvements to US-412.

As “*the voice of trucking*” safety is imperative to the industry and we believe the following to be beneficial: Because access control is inconsistent for the entirety of US-412, drivers within the Project corridor currently experience unsafe conditions including unexpected slowing and accelerating, passing, and weaving, and dangerous access points. The current configuration of US-412 contains multiple at-grade intersections with no acceleration lanes for vehicles turning onto the highway. Left turn bays do exist at the at-grade intersections, but aggressive breaking does occur at times when a vehicle has to yield to oncoming traffic. Upgrading to interstate standards will create a much safer environment for the traffic demand. Removing the at-grade turning movements and constructing interchanges will ensure free-flow speeds on the facility and improve travel times.

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



Tuesday, August 22, 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: US-412 Priority Improvements for Interstate Designation (2023/2024 MPDG INFRA/MEGA)

Honorable Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of the Pryor Area Chamber of Commerce, I am writing to voice support of the Oklahoma Department of Transportation's (ODOT) 2023/2024 MPDG application for improvements to US-412.

The Pryor Area Chamber of Commerce 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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Houston Brittain", is written over a faint, light blue circular watermark or background.

Houston Brittain
President & CEO