

TOM COLE
4TH DISTRICT, OKLAHOMA

DEPUTY WHIP

COMMITTEE ON RULES
RANKING REPUBLICAN

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
VICE RANKING REPUBLICAN

LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES,
EDUCATION AND RELATED AGENCIES –
RANKING REPUBLICAN
DEFENSE



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

February 12, 2020

PLEASE REPLY TO:

- 2207 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-6165
- 2424 SPRINGER DRIVE
SUITE 201
NORMAN, OK 73069
(405) 329-6500
- 711 SW D AVENUE
SUITE 201
LAWTON, OK 73069
(580) 357-2131
- SUGG CLINIC OFFICE BUILDING
100 EAST 13TH STREET, SUITE 213
ADA, OK 74820
(580) 436-5375

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

Dear Secretary Chao:

I am pleased to submit a letter of support for the Oklahoma Department of Transportation's (ODOT) Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) grant application for the I-40 and Douglas Blvd. project in Oklahoma County.

ODOT would use these grant funds to advance reconstruction and widening of more than five miles of I-40 from four lanes to six lanes in Oklahoma City and Midwest City, including rebuilding the I-40 interchange at Douglas Blvd as a Single Point Urban Interchange and addressing vertical clearance of several bridges over the interstate. This corridor and the Douglas Blvd. interchange directly serve Tinker Air Force Base, the largest single-site employer in Oklahoma that draws thousands of commuters and materials suppliers each day. Tinker AFB supports critical national defense missions worldwide and drives Oklahoma's private sector aerospace engineering and manufacturing industry.

ODOT is investing considerable resources to improve the corridor in this area, with several ongoing and planned projects to widen the interstate to six lanes between Oklahoma City and Shawnee to support growing freight and commuter traffic. Additionally, the Oklahoma Turnpike Authority's new 21-mile Kickapoo Turnpike between I-44 and I-40 on Oklahoma City's east side is scheduled to open in late 2020 and expected to generate significant volumes of new traffic connecting with I-40 just a few miles east of Douglas Blvd. It is critical to address this outdated and insufficient segment of I-40 now, as traffic volumes are expected to dramatically increase in coming years.

Grant funding for this project would help ODOT address the most challenging segment of I-40 widening in the area and complete the six-lane corridor between Oklahoma City and Shawnee. Additionally, this project serves regional and national economic interests, as I-40 is one of the only all-weather, coast-to-coast interstate routes in the United States.

I thank you in advance for your serious consideration of ODOT's application for this INFRA grant. Please contact Carter Cloud in my office at 202-225-6165 if you need any further assistance as you consider this important project.

Sincerely,

Tom Cole
Member of Congress