



February 17, 2020

The Honorable Elaine Chao
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE
Washington, DC 20590-0001

Dear Secretary Chao,

I am writing in support of the Oklahoma Department of Transportation's application for INFRA grant funding for the Interstate 44 corridor project. The I-44 corridor is the main artery for not only the state's flow of freight but also a significant roadway on the National Freight Network connecting multiple states as a nationally significant corridor.

The scope of the project covers reconstruction of a critical part of the interstate system that includes two functionally obsolete bridges. This roadway section was built in the 1950s and does not meet current interstate design standards evidenced by its high crash rate.

Improving this corridor benefits the State of Oklahoma and the surrounding states, but more importantly it contributes to the functionality and reliability of the interstate system. It connects large manufacturing facilities, and export businesses in Tulsa to the Port of Catoosa and the McClellan-Kerr water way system.

The design – build concept proposed by ODOT for this stretch of interstate would bring the roadway into a state of good repair. Safety and reliability aspects of this roadway segment are well documented. INCOG, the MPO for the region supports the Oklahoma Department of Transportation's effort to upgrade it to the current standard and would highly recommend funding the project.

Please let me know if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rich Brierre". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Rich Brierre
Executive Director