



## Adventure Cycling Association

June 21, 2019

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave SE  
Washington, D.C. 20590

**RE: BUILD application for US-281/Route 66 Bridgeport Bridge in Caddo and Canadian Counties**

Dear Secretary Chao,

I am writing on behalf of Adventure Cycling Association in support of the Oklahoma Department of Transportation's application for a BUILD grant to assist with improvements to the US-281/Route 66 Bridgeport Bridge in Caddo and Canadian Counties.

The US-281/Route 66 Bridgeport Bridge is located along Adventure Cycling's Bicycle Route 66, a mapped bike-friendly version of Historic Route 66. Bicycle Route 66 is designed to follow as much of the old route as possible, and appropriate side roads for those segments that have been lost to time. The US-281/Route 66 Bridgeport Bridge is an important connection for cyclists looking to experience Historic Route 66, who would otherwise be forced into a long detour around the historic road.

The proposed improvements to the US-281/Route 66 Bridgeport Bridge will maintain this section of Historic Route 66 for all roadway users, including the many traveling cyclists who yearly experience the cultural and historic treasure that is Route 66.

Based on map sales and information from our partners, we estimate that 500-800 people ride through Oklahoma on Bicycle Route 66 every year. These are travelers who are looking to stop and engage with the communities they pass, thus bolstering local economies throughout their trip. Research by the Institute for Tourism & Recreation Research found that, given the slower pace of travel, bike travelers spend up to 40% more than the average tourist. Improving the US-281/Route 66 Bridgeport Bridge will not only support the cyclists who ride Bicycle Route 66, it will also support the communities on either side who rely on bicycle tourism for their economic viability.

Adventure Cycling strongly supports the US-281/Route 66 Bridgeport Bridge project.

Thank you for your consideration. Please contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Laura Crawford".

Laura Crawford  
U.S. Bicycle Route System Coordinator  
Adventure Cycling Association  
(406) 532-2828

### Adventure Cycling Association

*A member-supported nonprofit organization, inspiring and empowering people to travel by bicycle.*

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