Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

November 20, 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 Bridge Investment Program (BIP). This project would improve the connection of I-35 and I-240, ensuring that this critical corridor will continue to serve the state and nation's interstate system.

The I-35 & I-240 Interchange is crucial to the function of Oklahoma City and the nation. Interstate 35 in Oklahoma City is a critical intercontinental freight corridor linking the country from north to south while also intersecting two other major east-west freight corridors, I-40 and I-44. I-240 serves as the southern loop of Oklahoma City connecting people to healthcare, education, and employment, as well as, major transportation generators such as Will Rogers World Airport and Tinker Air Force Base. The two bridges in Oklahoma City see over 13,000 trucks per day and ODOT has identified the corridor as a freight bottleneck.

Reconstruction of the I-35/I-240 Crossroads will create a multi-level interchange with dedicated interstate ramps and improve city street access with added ramps, turnaround lanes and service roads. Completion of this project will assist in the safety, accessibility, and travel time for network users. Additionally, the project would relieve an area with increased freight congestion and further secure our nation's freight and interstate systems.

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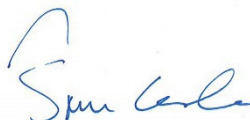
Sincerely,

James Lankford
United States Senator

Markwayne Mullin
United States Senator

Frank D. Lucas
Member of Congress

Tom Cole
Member of Congress

Stephanie Bice
Member of Congress