

Friday, November 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

Dear 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) application for the Bridge Investment Program. This project would provide crucial improvements to the Roosevelt Memorial Bridge on US-70 over Lake Texoma.

The Roosevelt Bridge over Lake Texoma connects Southern Oklahoma from east to west. Originally built in 1942 under the Roosevelt Administration, the bridge has become functionally obsolete and is currently at-risk of falling into poor condition and becoming structurally deficient. The bridge carries 8,500 vehicles per day, and while either side of the bridge is a four-lane highway, the bridge continues to be two lanes with no shoulders which leads to bottlenecks and higher rates of collisions. ODOT anticipates traffic volumes to increase to over 27,000 per day by 2050 and the current bridge is simply insufficient to provide for existing and future traffic needs. Additionally, with the Roosevelt Bridge crossing one of Oklahoma’s largest lakes, flooding has become common which has forced past closures lasting several days.

Building upon prior investment by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), ODOT proposes to provide a safe crossing of Lake Texoma that meets all current design criteria, accommodate future traffic demands, and improve the efficiency and reliability of the movement of people and freight. Additional accommodations will focus on increasing resiliency, providing a new bicycle and pedestrian crossing, and consideration of innovative project delivery methods. The competition of this project will improve the National Highway System and ensure that major freight routes continue to serve our nation’s economy.

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 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,

Jim Newport
CEO/President
Oklahoma Trucking Association

Mario Archaga
Chairman

Bobby Smith
First Vice Chairman

Carmalieta Wells
Second Vice Chairman

Jim Newport
President & CEO

