



Monday, October 28, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
U.S. Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

RE: Bridge Investment Program for the I-40 Arkansas River Bridge Replacement in Muskogee County, Oklahoma

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 (BIP). This project will replace the I-40 bridge over the Arkansas River at the Muskogee and Sequoyah County line in eastern Oklahoma.

The I-40 bridge over the Arkansas River is a fracture critical bridge that carries a disproportionately high number of truck traffic. The average annual daily traffic count is 21,000 vehicles with an overwhelming 30% being truck traffic. These conditions have put added fatigue on the structure and reduced the anticipated lifespan of the bridge. The fracture damage cannot be repaired with maintenance or rehabilitation and can only be corrected by full replacement.

The I-40 Arkansas River bridge replacement project will construct safe, resilient infrastructure on the national Primary Highway Freight System (PHFS). The PHFS is identified as the most critical highway portions of the U.S. freight transportation system. Creating this dependable freight connection is a valuable investment in the economic success of the nation.

The Oklahoma Trucking Association strongly supports this project for its vital contribution to the region, state and nation. We urge your support for full funding for the project. Thank you for your consideration of ODOT's application for the 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

Bobby Smith
Chairman

Carmalieta Wells
First Vice Chairman

Mario Archaga
Past Chairman

Jim Newport
President & CEO

