

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 includes the replacement of four bridges that are very old and possibly structurally deficient as a component of this great project, to update the existing interchanges on I-40 at Gary Boulevard and Neptune Drive in Clinton, Oklahoma.

The current interchange configuration lacks direct access from southbound Gary Boulevard to eastbound I-40. The spacing of the interchanges and unconventional geometrics at both intersections of I-40 and exit 65 creates congestion, safety, and connectivity issues through the area due to thousands of visitors visiting Clinton, Oklahoma, to stop at the Oklahoma Route 66 Museum. We have numerous Tour Groups to include: Tour Buses, RV Tours, Harley Groups, Car Clubs, and Truck Groups traveling this direction; therefore it is imperative to provide the proper vertical clearance needed to meet design standards, as well as, provide intersection and interchange spacing.

This project will replace four at risk and functionally obsolete bridges to improve the safety and operation of the interchanges. Also, this very important interchange project will have a positive impact on the City of Clinton that currently experiences adverse congestion issues. These crucial connections will also provide easier access to the surrounding facilities including Clinton High School, Southwest Elementary School, Acme Brick Park, McLain Rogers Park, residential neighborhoods, and the numerous commercial/retail businesses. Route 66 will be celebrating the Centennial Celebration in the year of 2026; therefore we will have thousands of visitors from every country and the USA visiting the Oklahoma Route 66 Museum and Clinton, Oklahoma.

Thank you in advance for your strong consideration of ODOT's application for the Bridge Investment Program. Please contact the Oklahoma Route 66 Museum, the largest museum dedicated to the history and culture of Route 66 if you need additional information or further assistance as you consider this very important proposal.

Sincerely,  
Patricia Smith

*Patricia Smith*

Museum Director, Oklahoma Route 66 Museum  
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Clinton, OK 73601

