



October 30, 2024

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 strong support of the Oklahoma Department of Transportation's (ODOT) application for the Bridge Investment Program (BIP). This project is critical to enhancing safety, connectivity, and congestion management for key infrastructure in Clinton, Oklahoma, as it involves replacing four bridges that are at risk of becoming structurally deficient. These bridge replacements are a crucial component of a larger project to reconfigure the interchanges on Interstate 40 at Gary Boulevard and Neptune Drive.

The current interchange configuration at Gary Boulevard lacks direct access from southbound Gary Boulevard to eastbound I-40, leading to increased congestion, diminished safety, and connectivity challenges. Furthermore, the unconventional geometry and inadequate spacing of the interchanges at I-40 and exit 65 contribute to these issues, creating both functional and safety concerns for drivers and the surrounding community. Addressing these functionally obsolete bridges is essential to meeting vertical clearance standards and improving intersection and interchange spacing to modern safety standards.

Replacing these four at-risk bridges will directly enhance the safety and efficiency of the I-40 interchanges. The expected outcomes include a reduction in congestion, improved traffic flow, and seamless access to essential community assets, such as Clinton High School, Southwest Elementary School, Acme Brick Park, McLain Rogers Park, nearby residential neighborhoods, and local commercial and retail areas.

We appreciate your strong consideration of ODOT's application for the Bridge Investment Program and the substantial benefits this project will bring to the City of Clinton and the I-40 corridor. Please do not hesitate to contact our office if we can provide additional support as you assess this important proposal.

Respectfully,

Julie Sanders

Julie Sanders
Director of Transportation
Southwest Oklahoma Regional Transportation Planning Organization
420 Sooner Dr.
Burns Flat, OK 73624
julie@swoda.org