



Monday, October 14, 2024

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

RE: Bridge Investment Program for the I-44 Bridge Rehabilitation in Oklahoma City

Dear Secretary, Buttigieg:

On behalf of the Oklahoma State Fair, Inc. I am writing to voice our organization's strong support of the Oklahoma Department of Transportation's (ODOT) application for a Bridge Investment Program (BIP) discretionary grant to assist with the I-44 Bridge Rehabilitation Project in Oklahoma City. This project will rehabilitate the two bridges over the Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) and Black Gold Drive. Both bridges are expected to become structurally deficient over the next few years.

I-44 is an essential highway that connects multiple nationwide interstate facilities. Every year I-44 moves millions of people and billions of dollars of freight, many of which move through Oklahoma and the two I-44 bridges over the Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) that are currently in "Fair" condition and at risk of falling into "Poor" condition in the next two to three years. Without rehabilitation, these bridges will harm the movement of people and goods in Oklahoma, deteriorating the regional and national supply chain. The goals of the proposed project are to improve operations on this corridor of I-44 and ensure the structures meet current design standards.

The Oklahoma State Fair, Inc. strongly supports the I-44 Bridge Rehabilitation Project in Oklahoma City for its contribution to the necessary infrastructure improvements for this vital corridor for the movement of people and goods. We strongly urge your support for full funding for the project. Thank you for your consideration and feel free to call on us should you have questions or if you require additional information.

Sincerely,

Kirk Slaughter
President & CEO

Oklahoma State Fair, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit corporation that serves the people of Oklahoma. We are dedicated to continuing the organization's heritage of education, entertainment, and economic development through the operation of the OKC Fairgrounds and the annual Oklahoma State Fair.