



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-44 Bridge Rehabilitation in Oklahoma City

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 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 Trucking Association strongly supports this project: I-44 Bridge Rehabilitation Project in Oklahoma City for its vital contribution to the necessary infrastructure improvements for this vital corridor for the movement of people and goods. 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

