



Friday, October 25, 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 State Chamber of Oklahoma, 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 State Chamber of Oklahoma 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 of 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,

Chad Warmington
President & CEO
The State Chamber of Oklahoma