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

Dear Secretary Duffy:

I am pleased to write this letter in support of the Oklahoma Department of Transportation's (ODOT) application for funding through the Bridge Investment Program (BIP). This project will replace bridges along I-40 and SH-100 in Muskogee and Sequoyah Counties that are in desperate need of replacement.

The bridges along I-40 and SH-100 are vital structures that both cross the McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System (MKARNS), which moves tons of freight annually and generates a significant economic impact on the global market. These bridges are fracture-critical, functionally obsolete, and at-risk of becoming structurally deficient, which would result in major disruptions to both freight and commuter traffic. The structures combine to support an average of 25,000 vehicles per day, which include interstate freight, agricultural products, and first responders. The replacement of these bridges would represent a strategic investment to protect the interstate and marine highway systems.

The *I-40 and SH-100 Bridge Replacements over the Arkansas River at Webbers Falls Project* will construct safe and reliable infrastructure on our nation's highway system and promote the efficient movement of freight and vehicular traffic. It is vital that our nation continues to invest in our bridge infrastructure to increase resiliency, efficiency, and safety. The addition of operational enhancements, such as increased shoulder width and railing height, will not only provide safety, but also increase economic competitiveness and ensure uninterrupted access for first responders and commercial traffic. Additionally, these new bridges will provide continued access to the Oklahoma National Guard Training Center, Camp Gruber.

Thank you in advance for your strong consideration of ODOT's application for funding through the Bridge Investment Program (BIP). Please contact my office should you need any further assistance as you consider this important proposal.

In God We Trust,



James Lankford
United States Senator for Oklahoma