

July 23, 2025

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

Dear Secretary Duffy,

I am writing to express my strong support for the Oklahoma Department of Transportation's (ODOT) application for the Bridge Investment Program (BIP) Grant, I-40 and SH-100 Bridge *Replacements over the Arkansas River at Webbers Falls Project* in Muskogee and Sequoyah Counties.

The bridges on I-40 and SH-100 are vital structures that are currently fracture-critical and functionally obsolete. They also risk becoming structurally deficient, which would impose significant travel time costs due to freight traffic detours if load posting becomes necessary. These critical structures combine to support an average of 25,000 vehicles per day with 27% truck traffic — serving interstate and local motorists, freight traffic, agricultural producers, and first responders. As the only Arkansas River crossings in the area, these bridges are vital to the allow local traffic to cross the McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System (MKARNS), which moves roughly 5 million tons of freight annually and generating a \$5.6 billion sales impact in global waterborne trade. Their replacement represents a strategic investment in the regional and national freight networks, preventing significant economic impact to both interstate and marine highway systems if disrupted.

Replacing these aging, fracture-critical bridges directly aligns with the Bridge Investment Program's goals for high-impact projects. New infrastructure will ensure the Primary Highway Freight System (PHFS) and MKARNS waterway network remain in good repair, significantly improving safety and mobility through increased shoulder width and railing height. These operational enhancements will increase economic competitiveness by expanding connectivity between local and national markets, avoiding costly freight detours, improving emergency response times, and ensuring uninterrupted access to regionally significant locations; including state and national parks and the Oklahoma National Guard Training Center, Camp Gruber.

I offer my complete support for the Oklahoma Department of Transportation's grant application. Should you require any additional information or clarification, please do not hesitate to contact my OKC office at 405-246-0025. Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of this matter.

God Bless,



Markwayne Mullin
United States Senate