



June 18, 2026

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

Re: FY 2026 Bridge Investment Program Grant: SH-9 Crossings at Flat Rock and Wallace Creek

Dear Secretary Duffy:

I am writing on behalf of the City of Eufaula to express our strong support for the Oklahoma Department of Transportation's application for funding through the Federal Highway Administration's Bridge Investment Program (BIP) for improvements to the State Highway 9 (SH-9) crossings at Flat Rock Creek and Wallace Creek.

State Highway 9 serves as a critical transportation corridor in eastern Oklahoma and functions as an important western gateway into the City of Eufaula and the greater Lake Eufaula region. While the project location is several miles west of our community, these crossings are utilized daily by residents, visitors, commercial vehicles, and emergency responders traveling to and from Eufaula. Maintaining safe, reliable infrastructure along this route is essential to supporting economic activity, tourism, and regional connectivity.

The proposed project will replace the Flat Rock Creek culvert and the Wallace Creek bridge, which was originally constructed in 1937 and is now in poor condition. These improvements will enhance safety, address geometric deficiencies, improve traffic flow, and increase the reliability of a corridor that supports freight movement, agricultural transportation, tourism, and everyday travel throughout eastern Oklahoma. The project will also help eliminate operational concerns associated with aging infrastructure and weight restrictions, improving efficiency for businesses and industries that depend on dependable transportation networks.

Dependable access along SH-9 is especially important for Eufaula given our role as a destination community centered around Lake Eufaula, Oklahoma's largest lake. Visitors traveling from central and western Oklahoma frequently utilize SH-9 to access our community, parks, marinas, businesses, and recreational amenities. Improvements to this corridor will strengthen tourism access, support local businesses, and contribute to the continued economic vitality of the region.

The project also aligns closely with the goals of the Bridge Investment Program by improving safety, modernizing roadway features, and enhancing infrastructure resilience. Planned upgrades, including improved roadway geometry, upgraded guardrails, and wider shoulders, will create a safer travel environment for motorists while increasing the corridor's ability to withstand future flood events and extreme weather conditions. These investments will reduce long-term maintenance costs and improve system reliability for decades to come.

ODOT has demonstrated exceptional stewardship of transportation resources and has advanced this project to a shovel-ready stage. Continued investment in critical infrastructure such as these SH-9 crossings will build upon Oklahoma's success in improving bridge conditions statewide while preserving an important transportation asset that serves residents, businesses, and visitors alike.

For these reasons, the City of Eufaula strongly encourages the U.S. Department of Transportation to fully fund this project through the Bridge Investment Program. Thank you for your consideration and your continued commitment to strengthening America's transportation infrastructure.

Respectfully,



Jacob R. Foos
City Manager