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## United States Senate

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February 20, 2026

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 the Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) grant program. The proposed project seeks to improve segments of I-35 in McClain County which would ensure a critical corridor on the National Highway Systems is able to continue freight connections and support the economy.

The I-35 corridor is integral to the nation's freight movement, carrying significant volumes of goods essential to interstate commerce and economic growth. As a Primary Highway Freight Corridor and Strategic Highway Network (STRAHNET) route, this segment of highway is one of the most important north-south freight routes in the nation. The section of I-35 in Southern Oklahoma experiences a higher-than-normal collision rate and continues to create congestion, slowing the movement of people and freight. These ongoing challenges pose safety risks to the travelling public and threaten supply chain reliability.

The *I-35 Safety & Capacity Improvement Project in McClain County* project will widen the mainline from four-lanes to six-lanes which will lower crash risks and support national supply chains. The project would provide additional capacity on the congested corridor which is expected to reduce travel times and increase reliability for all users. A less congested corridor is also expected to reduce the number of collisions. Completion of the project would ensure that I-35 continues to facilitate national and international freight movement, increase safety, and reliability for future Oklahomans.

Thank you in advance for your strong consideration of ODOT's application for the Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) grant program. 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