TOM COLE

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DEFENSE



Congress of the United States House of Representatives

September 6, 2022

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg Secretary U.S. Department of Transportation 1200 New Jersey Ave., SE Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I strongly support the Oklahoma Department of Transportation's (ODOT's) application for the Bridge Investment Program (BIP) Grant to replace Interstate 35 (I-35) bridges over State Highway 74 (SH-74) in Purcell, McClain County, Oklahoma.

I-35 over SH-74 is a vital project to connect a growing community. Currently there is no local access to I-35 between mile marker 91 and mile marker 95. This project's bridge replacements will be incorporated into a larger interchange project which will construct new exit and entrance ramps with I-35 and SH-74, adding direct access to I-35 in all directions at the center of the city, including the city's public safety and hospital facilities, improving emergency response time by allowing first responders access to I-35 and relieving congestion at W Grant Street and N Green Avenue. The improvement will also add a bicycle-pedestrian path for active transportation opportunities in the City of Purcell.

I thank you in advance for your consideration of ODOT's application for this BIP grant. Please contact Sofia Deiro on my staff, at sofia.deiro@mail.house.gov if you need any further assistance as you consider this important project.

Sincerely,

Tom Cole

Member of Congress

PLEASE REPLY TO:

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