

September 8, 2022

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I am pleased to support the Oklahoma Department of Transportation's (ODOT) application for Bridge Investment Program (BIP) grant funding to replace multiple bridges on Interstate 35 (I-35) over State Highway 74 (SH-74) that provide critical access to Purcell and McClain County. Funding from this grant will guarantee safe commutes for thousands of Oklahomans and will further expand economic activity in McClain County.

I-35 over SH-74 is a vital project to connect the growing community of Purcell. Currently, there is no local access to I-35 between mile marker 91 and mile marker 95. By adding direct access to I-35 in all directions at the center of the city, the city's public safety and hospital facilities emergency response time will improve allowing first responders. This will relieve 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. This project's bridge replacements will be incorporated into a larger interchange project which will construct new entrance and exit ramps with I-35 and SH-74.

Investing in the bridges today will allow the area to avoid costly detours should the bridges further deteriorate and require closing. This project will support critical mobility, safety, and good repair goals for the city of Purcell and the region it serves. I appreciate your consideration of the ODOT's application for BIP grant funding. Please contact Alexandra Slocum (202-224-4721 or Alexandra_Slocum@inhofe.senate.gov) on my staff if you have any questions related to this project.

Sincerely,



James M. Inhofe
United States Senator