



# THE CITY OF DURANT

## Office of the Mayor

November 21, 2023

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

The City of Durant, Oklahoma appreciates this opportunity to provide support for the Oklahoma Department Of Transportation's (ODOT) application requesting FY23-24 US DOT Bridge Investment Program funding.

This project would provide crucial dollars to rebuild the functionally obsolete Roosevelt Memorial Bridge on US-70 over Lake Texoma - significantly impacting public safety, emergency services and regional transportation for the local, regional, Oklahoma and our nation's economy.

The Roosevelt Bridge is at risk of becoming structurally insufficient soon. The narrow two lane bridge, with no shoulders, connects four lane US Highway 70 on both the east and west sides, which leads to bottlenecks and increased collisions on or near the bridge. Many of these accidents result in fatalities. Spanning almost one mile of Lake Texoma, this bridge is a vital major regional transportation route connecting Southern Oklahoma from east to west. Originally built in 1942 under the Roosevelt Administration, the 24 foot wide bridge is ten feet less than the width of current industrial roadways designed for commercial traffic. On a daily basis there are approximately 8,500 vehicles, including thousands of semi-trucks and trailers, heavy equipment and large motor homes traveling over this bridge. When these type of vehicles are moving side by side, there may only be a two to three-foot margin of error. Most drivers would consider this a critically high risk route on such a narrow bridge over deep water. Additionally, with the Roosevelt Bridge crossing one of Oklahoma's largest lakes, access to vital transportation arteries during times of flooding is vital.

According to ODOT analysis, the traffic moving across this bridge will continue to significantly increase, and the current bridge will not support this growth. In addition to being a critical link for the major freight route of the National Highway System, this bridge supports tourism efforts for Lake Texoma - which hosts about six million visitors a year. The new bridge accommodations will focus on increasing resiliency, pedestrian and bicycle transportation, and consideration of innovative project delivery methods.

Thank you in advance for your time and consideration of the ODOT's Bridge Investment Program application, with the possibility to provide crucial funding for the critical Roosevelt Bridge project. Please contact me at [mtucker@durant.org](mailto:mtucker@durant.org), if you need any further assistance, as you consider this proposal.

Respectfully,

Mayor Martin Tucker  
City of Durant, Oklahoma