

G R E A T E R
OKLAHOMA CITY
C H A M B E R

November 7, 2023

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

As an economic development organization with over 3,000 members, the Greater Oklahoma City Chamber would like to express our vocal support for the Oklahoma Department of Transportation's (ODOT) application "*Crossroads of America: Replacing Bridges on I-35/I-240 in Oklahoma City*" to the Bridge Investment Program (BIP). The Chamber believes the award of funding for this project would greatly improve the nationally significant connection of Interstates 35 and 240, ensuring that this critical corridor can continue to effectively serve the nation's interstate system.

The I-35 and I-240 interchange in Oklahoma City is crucial to the national and state economies and safe transport of the public and goods from coast to coast. I-35 is a critical freight corridor connecting the country from north to south while also intersecting two other major corridors, I-40 and I-44. I-240 serves as the southern loop of Oklahoma City connecting people to health care, education, and employment opportunities including major economic assets such as Tinker Air Force Base, the largest single site employer in Oklahoma with more than 26,000 employees, and Will Rogers Airport, which hosts the FAA's Mike Monroney Aeronautical Center, with more than 6,000 employees. The two bridges involved in this specific application see over 13,000 trucks per day and have been identified as freight bottlenecks by ODOT.

The reconstruction of the I-35/I-240 Crossroads Interchange will assist in the safety, accessibility, and travel time for network users through creating a multi-level interchange with dedicated interstate ramps and improved city street access with added ramps, turnaround lanes and service roads. Completion of this project

Thank you in advance for your strong consideration of ODOT's application for the Bridge Investment Program. Please contact the Chamber if you need any further assistance as you consider this critically important proposal.

Sincerely,



Christy Gillenwater
President and CEO