



Monday, October 28, 2024

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

Honorable Secretary Buttigieg:

As the “*voice of trucking*” in Oklahoma, we represent the unified interest of our member companies that literally have a front row seat to the needs of infrastructure across our state. Having polled our members, the Oklahoma Trucking Association, believes this project meets the desired goals state for the Oklahoma Department of Transportation’s (ODOT) application for the Bridge Investment Program (BIP). This project would improve the connection of I-35, ensuring that this critical corridor will continue to serve the state and nation’s interstate system.

I-35 at Waterloo Road has experienced significant growth recently of both residential and commercial development making the current intersection design deficient. This increase in freight and vehicular traffic causes congestion along I-35 between Waterloo Road and Oklahoma City, just to the south. These two bridges are at risk of becoming structurally deficient in the next three years and experience frequent bridge strike by oversized loads due to sub-standard vertical clearance of 13 feet 1 inch.

This project will replace the two existing I-35 bridges over Waterloo with two 60-foot-wide bridges on existing right of way, as a component of a larger diverging diamond intersection reconfiguration. The vertical clearance of the bridge will be increased to provide 16 feet 11 inches of clearance helping prevent further bridge strikes from oversized loads. The longer bridge span will increase the width of the underpass adding addition space for potential pedestrian access. This project will promote a safer, more resilient network increasing the quality of life for all users.

The Oklahoma Trucking Association strongly supports this project for its vital contribution to the region, state and nation. We urge your support of full funding for the project. Thank you for your consideration of ODOT’s application for the application for the Bridge Investment Program. Please contact our offices if you need any further assistance as you consider this important proposal.

Sincerely,

Jim Newport
CEO/President
Oklahoma Trucking Association

Bobby Smith
Chairman

Carmalieta Wells
First Vice Chairman

Mario Archaga
Past Chairman

Jim Newport
President & CEO

