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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3605

October 31, 2024

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION
COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE,
AND TECHNOLOGY
DEPUTY WHIP
COMMISSIONER
NATIONAL SECURITY COMMISSION
ON EMERGING BIOTECHNOLOGY

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I write to request your full and equitable consideration of the Oklahoma Department of Transportation's (ODOT) application for the Bridge Investment Program (BIP). This project would replace two Interstate 35 bridges over Waterloo Road in Oklahoma and Logan Counties that do not meet design criteria of the state and nation's interstate system.

The area of I-35 at Waterloo Road has experienced significant growth in 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 weak in the next three years. The bridges experience frequent bridge strikes by oversized loads due to sub-standard vertical clearance of only 13 feet 1 inch. This project will replace the two existing I-35 bridges over Waterloo with two 60-foot-wide bridges on the 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 additional space for potential pedestrian access.

Thank you for your consideration of the Oklahoma Department of Transportation's application for the Bridge Investment Program. Please do not hesitate to reach out to my office if I can ever be of assistance.

Sincerely,



Stephanie Bice
Member of Congress