



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 includes the replacement of four bridges that are at risk of becoming structurally deficient as a component of the larger project to modify the existing interchanges on I-40 at Gary Boulevard and Neptune Drive in Clinton, Oklahoma.

The current interchange configuration lacks direct access from southbound Gary Boulevard to eastbound I-40. The spacing of the interchanges and unconventional geometrics at both intersections of I-40 and exit 65 creates congestion, safety, and connectivity issues through the area. Addressing the functionally obsolete bridges is imperative to provide the vertical clearance needed to meet design standards, as well as, provide intersection and interchange spacing.

This project will replace four at risk and functionally obsolete bridges to improve the safety and operation of the interchanges. This project will have a positive impact on the City of Clinton that currently experiences adverse congestion issues. These crucial connections will provide easier access to the surrounding facilities including Clinton High School, Southwest Elementary School, Acme Brick Park, McLain Rogers Park, residential neighborhoods, and commercial/retail properties.

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*

