

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

August 18, 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:

We are pleased to write this letter in support of the Oklahoma Department of Transportation's (ODOT) application for the Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant (MPDG) program. This project would provide crucial improvements to the Roosevelt Memorial Bridge on US-70 over Lake Texoma.

The Roosevelt Bridge over Lake Texoma connects Southern Oklahoma from east to west. Originally built in 1942 under the Roosevelt Administration, the bridge has become functionally obsolete and is currently at-risk of falling into poor condition and becoming structurally deficient. The bridge carries 8,500 vehicles per day, and while either side of the bridge is a four-lane highway, the bridge continues to be two lanes with no shoulders which leads to bottlenecks and higher rates of collisions. ODOT anticipates traffic volumes to increase to over 27,000 per day by 2050 and the current bridge is simply insufficient to provide for existing and future traffic needs. Additionally, with the Roosevelt Bridge crossing one of Oklahoma's largest lakes, flooding has become common which has forced past closures lasting several days.

Building upon prior investment by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), ODOT proposes to provide a safe crossing of Lake Texoma that meets all current design criteria, accommodate future traffic demands, and improve the efficiency and reliability of the movement of people and freight. Additional accommodations will focus on increasing resiliency, providing a new bicycle and pedestrian crossing, and consideration of innovative project delivery methods. The completion of this project will improve the National Highway System and ensure that major freight routes continue to serve our nation's economy.

Thank you in advance for your strong consideration of ODOT's application for the MPDG program. Please contact our offices if you need any further assistance as you consider this important proposal.

Sincerely,



James Lankford
United States Senator



Markwayne Mullin
United States Senator



Josh Brecheen
Member of Congress

Cody Maynard

House District 21

2300 N. Lincoln Blvd
Room 341.2
Oklahoma City, OK 73105
405-557-7366



Committees

State Powers, Vice Chair
A & B Education
Banking, Financial Services &
Pension
General Government
cody.maynard@okhouse.gov

HOUSE of REPRESENTATIVES

State of Oklahoma

August 15, 2023

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

RE: Roosevelt Memorial Bridge Investment Project (2023/2024 MPDG MEGA/INFRA)

Honorable Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of Oklahoma House District 21, I am writing to support the Oklahoma Department of Transportation's (ODOT) 2023/2024 MPDG application for the Roosevelt Bridge: US-70 over Lake Texoma.

I support this project for its vital contribution to the region, state and nation. I strongly urge your support of full funding for the project. Thank you for your consideration and please feel free to call on me should you have questions or if you require additional information.

Sincerely,

Representative Cody Maynard
House District 21

SODA

**SOUTHERN OKLAHOMA
DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION**

P.O. BOX 709, DURANT, OK 74702-0709
PHONE: 580-920-1388 | FAX: 580-920-1391
WWW.SODA-OK.ORG

August 15, 2023

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of the Southern Oklahoma Development Association (SODA), a ten-county economic development district located in southern Oklahoma, we would like to express our support for the Oklahoma Department of Transportation's (ODOT) 2023/2024 MPDG application for the Roosevelt Bridge: US-70 over Lake Texoma.

The US-70 Roosevelt Bridge across Lake Texoma between Kingston and Durant is functionally obsolete and at-risk of falling into poor condition and becoming structurally deficient. The proposed project will provide a safe crossing of Lake Texoma that meets all current design criteria, accommodate future traffic demands, improve the efficiency and reliability of the movement of people and freight, increase resiliency, provide a new bicycle and pedestrian crossing, and consider innovative project delivery methods such as accelerated bridge construction and progressive design build.

US-70 is an important link on the National Highway System (NHS) and provides critical east-west connectivity across southern Oklahoma, linking major freight routes such as I-35, US-69, and US-75. The existing two-lane facility is not sufficient to accommodate the anticipated future traffic growth. Adding traffic capacity to the Roosevelt Bridge presents a significant complication. Lake Texoma is one of the largest lakes in Oklahoma and is nearly 100 feet deep at this location.

Without improvements the level of Level of Service on US-70 is anticipated to worsen and result in significant congestion. The additional two lanes planned as part of the Roosevelt Bridge Project will improve safety and Level of Service on the bridge, removing the bottleneck created by the existing two-lane facility.

Thank you for your consideration and please feel free to call on us should you have questions or if you require additional information.

Respectfully submitted,



Steven C. Mills, Ph.D.
Executive Director



**SOUTH-CENTRAL OKLAHOMA REGIONAL
TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION**

Thursday, August 17, 2023

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

RE: Roosevelt Memorial Bridge Investment Project (2023/2024 MPDG MEGA/INFRA)

Honorable Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of South Central Oklahoma Regional Transportation Planning Organization, I am writing to support the Oklahoma Department of Transportation's (ODOT) 2023/2024 MPDG application for the Roosevelt Bridge: US-70 over Lake Texoma.

SCORTPO supports this project for its vital contribution to the region, state and nation. We strongly urge your support of full funding for the project. Thank you for your consideration and please feel free to call on us should you have questions or if you require additional information.

Sincerely,

Steven C. Mills
SCORTPO Policy Board



August 21, 2023

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

RE: Roosevelt Memorial Bridge Investment Project (2023/2024 MPDG MEGA/INFRA)

Honorable Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of the City of Durant, Oklahoma, I am writing this letter of support for the Oklahoma Department of Transportation's (ODOT) 2023/2024 MPDG application for the Roosevelt Bridge- US-70 over Lake Texoma.

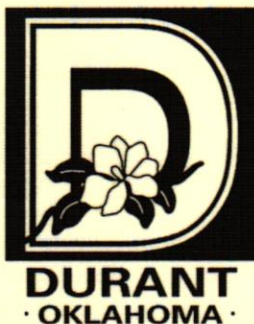
This project is vital to the continuing growth of the City of Durant. US-70 is a major link between Durant and Highway 35. Traffic numbers continue to increase due to the population growth within the region. The current Roosevelt Bridge is 78 years old and is outdated and unsafe. The Bridge is narrow and has no shoulders, which are needed for safety. This area of US-70 has seen an increase in accidents of which many involve injuries.

The City of Durant supports this project for its vital contribution to the Region and the State of Oklahoma. We STRONGLY urge your support of full funding for the project.

Thank you for your consideration and please feel free to contact me should you have questions or if you require additional information.

Sincerely,

Rick Rumsey
Interim City Manager



THE CITY OF DURANT

Office of Durant Industrial Authority

Monday, August 14, 2023

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

RE: Roosevelt Memorial Bridge Investment Project (2023/2024 MPDG MEGA/INFRA)

Honorable Secretary Buttigieg:

Thank you for the opportunity to write this letter in support of the Oklahoma Department of Transportation's (ODOT) 2023/2024 MPDG application for the Roosevelt Bridge: US-70 over Lake Texoma. Over the years, we have watched traffic congestion increase over this now 78 year old bridge. We personally know people who have had very serious, life threatening accidents on this very narrow bridge with no shoulders and narrow lanes. The Roosevelt Bridge on Highway 70 is the most direct link from Durant west to Interstate 35, and a new bridge meeting current federal design standards is vital for safety and for our growing economy. We applaud the Oklahoma Department of Transportation for using the innovative design-build approach to project design and construction, a proven approach that can result in a better, lower cost design and also benefitting by moving the project forward on an accelerated schedule, further lowering costs.

The Durant Industrial Authority enthusiastically supports this project for this vital transportation link to benefit the region, state and nation. We strongly urge your support of full funding for the project. Thank you for your consideration and please feel free to call on us should you have questions or if you require additional information.

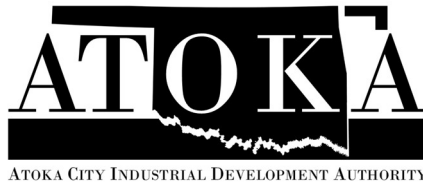
Sincerely,

Jeff Hammock, Chairman

Paul Buntz, Interim Economic Development Director

cc.

Inger Peters, Transportation Coordinator
Project Management Division
Oklahoma Transportation
405-301-7228



Wednesday, August 16, 2023

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

RE: Roosevelt Memorial Bridge Investment Project (2023/2024 MPDG MEGA/INFRA)

Honorable Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of Atoka City Industrial Development Authority, I am writing to support the Oklahoma Department of Transportation's (ODOT) 2023/2024 MPDG application for the Roosevelt Bridge: US-70 over Lake Texoma.

Access to SE Oklahoma is pivotal to our success in improving the quality of life for our residents. The Roosevelt Bridge carries US-70 over Lake Texoma and provides a critical east-west connection across southern Oklahoma. The Roosevelt Bridge is a critical transportation link in light of regional freight patterns and the lack of alternative routes. Any closure of the Roosevelt Bridge, whether due to flooding or traffic incidents, results in a significant detour of approximately 39 miles. This bridge on Hwy 70 is in dire need of repairs.

The proposed Project will provide a safe crossing of Lake Texoma that meets all current design criteria, accommodate future traffic demands, improve the efficiency and reliability of the movement of people and freight, increase resiliency, provide a new bicycle and pedestrian crossing, and consider innovative project delivery methods such as accelerated bridge construction and progressive design-build.

Atoka City Industrial Development Authority supports this project for its vital contribution to the region, state, and nation. We strongly urge your support of full funding for the project. Thank you for your consideration, and please feel free to call us if you have questions or require additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carol Ervin". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Director: Atoka City Industrial Development Authority
carol.ervin@atokaok.org

Carol Ervin
Director: Atoka City Industrial Development Authority
983 W Liberty Rd
Atoka, OK 74525

carol.ervin@atokaok.org
Cell 580.364.4722 (preferred)
Ofc 580.889.6575



Wednesday, August 9, 2023

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

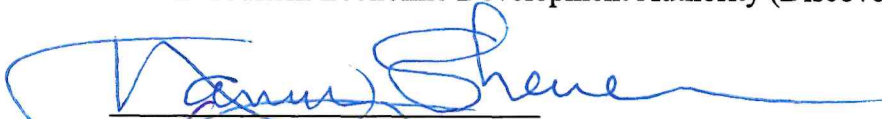
RE: Roosevelt Memorial Bridge Investment Project (2023/2024 MPDG MEGA/INFRA)


Honorable Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of the Durant Tourism Economic Development Authority (Discover Durant), I am writing to support the Oklahoma Department of Transportation's (ODOT) 2023/2024 MPDG application for the Roosevelt Bridge: US-70 over Lake Texoma.

The Durant Tourism Economic Development Authority (Discover Durant) supports this project for its vital contribution to the region, state and nation. We strongly urge your support of full funding for the project. Thank you for your consideration and please feel free to call on us should you have questions or if you require additional information.

Sincerely,
Durant Tourism Economic Development Authority (Discover Durant)







215 North 4th Avenue
Durant, Oklahoma 74701
(580) 924-0848
durantchamber.org

8/14/2023

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

RE: Roosevelt Memorial Bridge Investment Project (2023/2024 MPDG MEGA/INFRA)

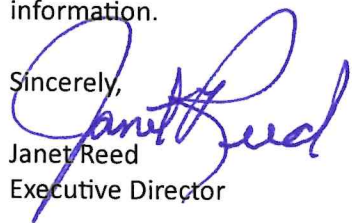
Honorable Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of the Durant Area Chamber of Commerce, I am writing to support the Oklahoma Department of Transportation's (ODOT) 2023/2024 MPDG application for the Roosevelt Bridge: US-70 over Lake Texoma.

The historic Roosevelt Bridge is necessary to keep our economic flow progressing through our region. This bridge is utilized by not only the day-to-day traffic flow but is a major thoroughfare for our industries, education facilities, medical agencies, emergency carriers and a major route to intersect with HWY 75, north and south. Without this bridge we will be looking at a detour of approximately 60 miles. As I'm sure you are aware, Roosevelt Bridge needs extensive repairs or total replacement. We are hoping that the bridge will be replaced with a new structure.

The Durant Area Chamber of Commerce supports this project for its vital contribution to the region, state, and nation. We strongly urge your support for full funding of the project. Thank you for your consideration and please feel free to call on us should you have questions or if you require additional information.

Sincerely,


Janet Reed
Executive Director



Wednesday, August 16, 2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg

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

**RE: Roosevelt Memorial Bridge Investment Project
(2023/2024 MPDG MEGA/INFRA)**

Honorable Secretary Buttigieg:

The Durant Sustainability Coalition, Inc. (DSC), a nonprofit community organization, strongly supports the Oklahoma Department of Transportation's (ODOT) 2023/2024 MPDG application for the Roosevelt Bridge: US-70 over Lake Texoma provided the project includes a new bicycle and pedestrian crossing as specified in the attached description.

The DSC board supports the Roosevelt Bridge Project specifically as designed to transform this essential transportation corridor into a multimodal facility that will be safer for all and particularly to provide people who walk, bike or use other active transportation modes direct access to the recreational, natural, historic and scenic resources of this region.

DSC's mission is to educate and energize citizens in sustaining our region's environmental richness, natural resources, and beauty. This highway traverses an area of rural Oklahoma rich with the history of its indigenous people and the beauty of its natural landscapes. The project's re-imagining of this transportation corridor creates an unparalleled opportunity to fully support multimodal travel modes that will connect everyone, especially minority, rural and historic communities, with the natural environment and rich habitat of this region.

Therefore DSC supports the request for grant funding of this project for its vital contribution to the region, state and nation. We strongly urge your support of full funding for the project. Thank you for your consideration and please feel free to call should you have questions or require additional information.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Mesiti-Miller
Board Chair



Ph: (580) 924-3100



Mid-Continental Broadcasting

KSEO
750 AM
94.1 FM

Fax: (580) 920-1426

Tuesday, August 15, 2023

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

RE: Roosevelt Memorial Bridge Investment Project (2023/2024 MPDG MEGA/INFRA)

Honorable Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of Mid-Continental Broadcasting, I am writing to support the Oklahoma Department of Transportation's (ODOT) 2023/2024 MPDG application for the Roosevelt Bridge: US-70 over Lake Texoma.

The attached information page will give you multiple reasons as to why this project is needed, first and foremost for safety purposes, but also commerce and growth.

Mid-Continental Broadcasting supports this project for its vital contribution to the region, state and nation. We strongly urge your support of full funding for the project. Thank you for your consideration and please feel free to call on us should you have questions or if you require additional information.

Sincerely,

Jason Taylor
General Manager
Mid-Continental Broadcasting
Durant, Oklahoma



MURRAY
STATE COLLEGE

Office of the President, Dr. Tim Faltyn

Monday, August 14, 2023

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

RE: Roosevelt Memorial Bridge Investment Project (2023/2024 MPDG MEGA/INFRA)

Honorable Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of Murray State College, I am writing to support the Oklahoma Department of Transportation's (ODOT) 2023/2024 MPDG application for the Roosevelt Bridge: US-70 over Lake Texoma.

The safety of our communities, citizens and visitors is of the highest importance. Many of our students travel from the North Texas and Southern Oklahoma region to visit our campuses in Tishomingo and Ardmore. The Roosevelt Bridge has an unfortunate history of high collision rates on or near the bridge, with several resulting in severe injury and fatality. Providing an opportunity to widen the existing roadway from 2- to 4-lanes will allow for safer passage as traffic volumes increase along US-70.

The Roosevelt Bridge is a critical transportation link, connecting major freight routes such as I-35, US-69 and US-75. Any closure of the bridge due to accidents or flooding results in a significant detour of roughly 39-miles. The economic impact of the bridge for its communities is substantial. Structural functionality is crucial to the success of the area.

Murray State College supports this project for its vital contribution to the region, state and nation. We strongly urge your support of full funding for the project. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Dr. Tim Faltyn
President, Murray State College



Wednesday, August 16, 2023

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

RE: Roosevelt Memorial Bridge Investment Project (2023/2024 MPDG MEGA/INFRA)

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) 2023/2024 MPDG application for the Roosevelt Bridge: US-70 over Lake Texoma.

As “*the voice of trucking*” safety is imperative to the industry and we believe the following to be beneficial: The Roosevelt Bridge has a demonstrated history of high collision rates on and near the bridge, particularly severe collisions such as injuries and fatalities. Widening the route from one-lane to two-lanes in each direction will provide additional passing opportunities and a safer route for the projected traffic volumes along US-70.

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 and please feel free to call on us should you have questions or if you require additional information.

Sincerely,

Jim Newport
CEO/President
Oklahoma Trucking Association

Zac Kannady
Chairman

Mario Archaga
First Vice Chairman

Bobby Smith
Second Vice Chairman

Jim Newport
President & CEO



OKLAHOMA TECHNOLOGY & MAINTENANCE COUNCIL
COUNCIL OF OKLAHOMA TRUCKING ASSOCIATION

OKLAHOMA SAFETY & SECURITY COUNCIL
COUNCIL OF OKLAHOMA TRUCKING ASSOCIATION

Texoma's Lakeside Motel & RV Park
1878 Hwy 70 E, Kingston, OK 73439
(580) 564-4442

Tuesday, August 15, 2023

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

RE: Roosevelt Memorial Bridge Investment Project (2023/2024 MPDG MEGA/INFRA)

Honorable Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing to support the Oklahoma Department of Transportation's (ODOT) 2023/2024 MPDG application for the Roosevelt Bridge: US-70 over Lake Texoma.

The Roosevelt Bridge is vital to our communities in Southern Oklahoma.

We support this project for its vital contribution to the region, state and nation. We strongly urge your support of full funding for the project. Thank you for your consideration and please feel free to call on us should you have questions or if you require additional information.

Sincerely,



Tyler Stinson
Texoma's Lakeside Motel & RV Park
1878 Hwy 70 E, Kingston, OK 73439
(580) 564-4442

