

CITY OF WEWOKA
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November 26, 2018

The Honorable Elaine
Secretary Elaine L. Chao
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590
United States

Dear Secretary Chao,

I am writing this letter in support of the Seminole County US 270 application for Competitive Highway Bridge Program (CHBP) funds being filed by the Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT). We are pleased that the Administration for is promoting this important infrastructure assistance project!

Located in east-central Seminole County, Wewoka is situated at the junction of State Highway 56 and U.S. Highway 270. Wewoka, a Seminole word meaning "barking water," was the original late 1800s location of the Seminole Nation capital. (Today, the Town of Wewoka is headquarters for the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma.) Following statehood in 1907 and organization of counties, Wewoka was selected as the county seat. Lake Wewoka was developed in the 1920s to serve as a water reservoir and to provide recreational area.

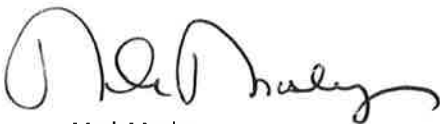
In addition to the oil and gas industry, agriculture has played a significant part in the local economy with prominent crops included cotton, peaches, and pecans. Apparel production, food processing, health and hospital care, and other small businesses round out the local economic base. As you know, all the aforementioned businesses rely on a transportation system that can carry equipment of increasing size and magnitude. Thus keeping our bridges in a state of good repair is essential.

The improvements proposed by ODOT include seven bridges over approximately seven miles. Six bridges (currently in fair or poor condition) are planned for replacement; one in good repair (showing obstruction of culvert barrels and severe silt buildup) is planned for rehabilitation. The proposed project cost is \$14.2 million and the Department is using its ingenuity by bundling 7 individual projects together and planning to use lightweight granular backfill – both of which will expedite project delivery, minimize cost, and provide a better transportation system.

Wewoka is a solid Oklahoma community on US 270, which crosses diagonally through the state of Oklahoma. Improvements to the bridges on US 270 will help provide a safe and dependable route for travelers in our city, county, state, and surrounding states.

As the City Manager of Wewoka, I respectfully request your careful consideration and support of the US 270 Seminole County Oklahoma Bridge Bundle grant application. This is an important infrastructure project in Oklahoma that will create and retain jobs and improve the quality of life for our residents and businesses.

Sincerely,



Mark Mosley
City Manager

CC: Oklahoma Department of Transportation