

G R E A T E R
OKLAHOMA CITY
C H A M B E R

July 28, 2025

The Honorable Sean Duffy
U.S. Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Duffy:

As a large economic development organization in a fast-growing region of the country, the Greater Oklahoma City Chamber is pleased to submit this letter in support of the Oklahoma Department of Transportation's (ODOT) application for the Bridge Investment Program (BIP). Specifically, this project would improve the connection of I-35 to the national highway system; and further serve a tremendous economic and community development need given Oklahoma City's significant role as a host site for the LA 28 Olympic Games showcasing the United States of America before a global audience.

The confluence of strategically important interstate highways (I-35, I-40 and I-44) in the heart of our city means that our region is critically located at the crossroads of intercontinental transportation.

Oklahoma City is proud to have been selected by LA 28 as the staging site for the Canoe Slalom and Softball competitions to be held during the XXXIV Olympiad. These events will bring in an influx of athletes and a substantial number of spectators from across the globe who will utilize highway infrastructure and, specifically, the I-35 bridges.

The project being pursued by ODOT proposes to **1) Replace the two existing I-35 bridges over the water, including a ramp bridge connection and 2) Include the addition of a previously awarded pedestrian bridge to provide multimodal access across the river.** In terms of the second project feature, ODOT has secured commitments from the City of Oklahoma City to contribute resources to the pedestrian, bike, and scooter bridge. Completion of these two key aspects of the project would enhance safety, increase capacity, and ensure continued contributions to the robust national economy.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of ODOT's application for the Bridge Investment Program with nationally significant impacts.

Sincerely,



Christy Gillenwater
President and CEO