



**EASTERN OKLAHOMA DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT**

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July 17, 2025

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

RE: I-40 and SH-100 Bridge Replacements over the Arkansas River at Webbers Falls Project

Dear Secretary Duffy:

We are pleased to submit this letter in support of the Oklahoma Department of Transportation's (ODOT) application for the Bridge Investment Program (BIP) Grant, I-40 and SH-100 Bridge Replacements over the Arkansas River at Webbers Falls Project in Muskogee and Sequoyah Counties.

The bridges on I-40 and SH-100 are vital structures that are currently fracture-critical and functionally obsolete. They also risk becoming structurally deficient, which would impose significant travel time costs due to freight traffic detours if load posting becomes necessary. These critical structures combine to support 25,000 average annual daily traffic (AADT) with 27% truck traffic, serving local motorists, freight traffic, agricultural producers, and first responders. As the only Arkansas River crossings in the area, they are a vital component of the McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System (MKARNS), enabling Oklahoma to move roughly 5 million tons of freight annually and generating a \$5.6 billion sales impact in global waterborne trade. Their replacement represents a strategic investment in the regional and national freight networks, preventing significant economic impact to both interstate and marine highway systems if disrupted.

Replacing these aging, fracture-critical bridges directly aligns with the Program's goals for high-impact projects. New infrastructure will ensure the Primary Highway Freight System (PHFS) and MKARNS waterway network remain in good repair, significantly improving safety and mobility through increased shoulder width and railing height. These operational enhancements will increase economic competitiveness by expanding connectivity between local and national markets, avoiding costly freight detours, improving emergency response times, and ensuring uninterrupted access to regionally significant locations, including state and federal parks and the Oklahoma National Guard Training Center, Camp Gruber.

Thank you in advance for your strong consideration of ODOT's essential project for BIP award. Please contact our offices if you need any further assistance as you consider this important proposal.

Sincerely,

*Scott Harding*

Scott Harding  
Executive Director  
Eastern Oklahoma Development District