



THE STATE CHAMBER

Monday, February 16, 2026

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

Dear Secretary Duffy:

We are pleased to write this letter in strong support of the BUILD Grant application *I-35 Safety & Capacity Improvement Project in McClain County* submitted by the Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT). This project will enhance safety, reduce congestion, and improve freight mobility along a critical segment of I-35, a Primary Highway Freight Corridor and Strategic Highway Network (STRAHNET) route on the National Highway System.

I-35 is one of the most important north-south freight routes in the nation, carrying significant volumes of goods essential to interstate commerce and economic growth. Increasing traffic and freight demand have created congestion and safety challenges that threaten supply chain reliability. Widening I-35 from four to six lanes will improve efficiency for freight movement, reduce crash risk, and strengthen connectivity between rural and urban areas. By adding lanes within the existing right-of-way, the project minimizes environmental and utility impacts while ensuring long-term resiliency through durable pavement and upgraded drainage.

These improvements will support regional and national economic competitiveness by facilitating the efficient movement of goods and people. The project aligns strongly with BUILD merit criteria by improving safety, enhancing mobility, and promoting economic growth.

Thank you for your consideration of ODOT's application for this vital infrastructure investment.

Please contact our offices if you need any further assistance as you review this important proposal.

Sincerely,

Chad Warmington  
President and CEO  
The State Chamber of Oklahoma