

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 *Centennial Pathways: Enhancing Community Connectivity on US-69* submitted by the Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT) for improvements to the existing route along US-69 in Muskogee. This project will increase safety for both motorized and nonmotorized travelers, reconnect the communities on the west and east sides of US-69, and provide a less restrictive roadway for freight movement.

US-69 is a key north-south corridor that is vital to the Muskogee community and the freight network, with over 20,000 kilotons of freight traveling through this corridor every year. The existing roadway requires reconstruction to improve the safety and efficiency for the surrounding community. Another key component of this project is to replace the existing pedestrian bridge over US-69 to accommodate oversized vehicles and construct sidewalks along the corridor to improve the mobility of nonmotorized travelers. These improvements are expected to reduce crashes by enhancing roadway design and pedestrian infrastructure, while also supporting economic development by improving access to Port Muskogee and facilitating efficient freight movement critical to regional growth.

Thank you for your strong consideration of ODOT's application, *Centennial Pathways: Enhancing Community Connectivity on US-69*, for its contribution to the necessary infrastructure improvements for the safety and connectivity of the surrounding community. This project strongly aligns with the BUILD merit criteria by improving safety, enhancing mobility and community connectivity, and supporting economic competitiveness. Please contact our offices if you need any further assistance as you consider this important proposal.

Sincerely,



Angela Wilson, IOM
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