

KENTON PATZKOWSKY
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House of Representatives

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

August 15, 2022

VICE CHAIR
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SUBCOMMITTEE
Appropriations & Budget –
Natural Resources & Regulatory
Services

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg, Secretary
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

As the state official elected to represent House District 61 in northwestern Oklahoma, I am writing you to let you know that I am fully in support of the Circuit Engineering District (CED) #8 application for the Bridge Investment Program (BIP) Grant to replace seven bridges in six rural counties in northwestern Oklahoma. This grant will improve seven bridges that are currently in fair or poor condition, have insufficient widths, and are load posted, making them unsuitable to carry vehicles, school buses, or large agricultural equipment.

These bridges are either at or beyond their useful lives, having been constructed between 1915 and 1981. Like many bridges across the country, these bridges need significant investment to bring them out of a structurally deficient rating or prevent them from falling into that category. Investing today will prevent greater needed investments in the future and will avoid costly detours should the bridges further deteriorate and require closure.

CED #8 has responsibility over 14 counties in one of the most rural parts of Oklahoma. With limited funding available, CED #8 is unable to meet all the infrastructure needs within its boundaries. Receipt of the BIP Grant would allow CED #8 to let a single contract for all seven bridges included in this request, take advantage of the cost and time savings of bundling, in addition to other economic and societal benefits.

This project will support critical state of good repair, safety, and mobility goals for our county bridge system as well as support the residents and economy of northwestern Oklahoma. I strongly support this grant application and request your most favorable consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kenton Patzkowsky".

Representative Kenton Patzkowsky
Oklahoma House District 61