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October 16, 2024

Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Secretary of Transportation  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Re: Oklahoma Panhandle Safe Bridges Project

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

Oklahoma Circuit Engineering District 8 (CED 8) is pleased to submit the Oklahoma Panhandle Safe Bridges Project that will advance the FHWA BIP goal of eliminating deficient bridges and restore safe crossings that are up to today's design standards and meet traffic requirements for safety and weight. CED 8 pledges **\$5,270,760** out of CIRB funds for matching funds towards the project. In addition to financial support, CED 8 will manage the planning, design, and construction of the project. Our staff has experience managing federal grants, including contracting, reporting, and expending funds.

All four bridges are between 51 and 64 years old and are approaching the end of their useful lives. This package of bridges is in need of significant investment. CED 8 has responsibility over 14 counties in one of the most rural parts of Oklahoma. With limited funding, the CED is unable to meet all the infrastructure needs within its boundaries. BIP funding would allow CED 8 to let a single contract for all four bridges included in this request and take advantage of the cost and time savings of bundling.

This project will support the critical state of good repair, safety, and mobility goals for Oklahoma's county bridge system as well as the residents and economy of the panhandle.

This project is important to the future vitality and livability of rural Oklahoma.

We appreciate your consideration and support.

Regards,

Circuit Engineering District 8



Approved Oct 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024  
Max L. Hess  
Randy McMurphy