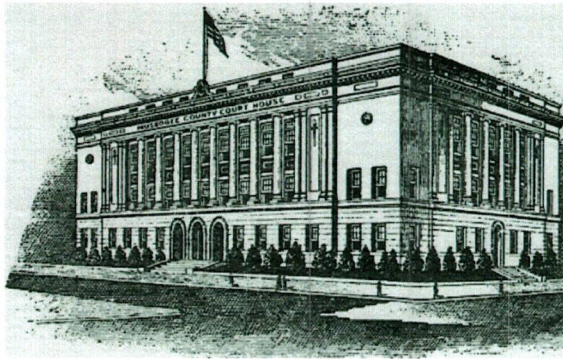


**KEN DOKE**  
MUSKOGEE CO. DISTRICT 1

**KEITH HYSLOP**  
MUSKOGEE CO. DISTRICT 2

**KENNY PAYNE**  
MUSKOGEE CO. DISTRICT 3



**POLLY IRVING**  
COUNTY CLERK



**SHEILA SHAMBI.IN**  
BOCC Executive Assistant

## **MUSKOGEE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

P.O. BOX 2307 MUSKOGEE, OK 74402-2307 PHONE (918)682-9601 \* FAX (918) 684-1697

Email: [bocc@readymuskogee.org](mailto:bocc@readymuskogee.org) - Website: [www.muskogeecountygov.com](http://www.muskogeecountygov.com)

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

Oct. 21, 2024

RE: Bridge Investment Program for the I-40 Arkansas River Bridge Replacement in Muskogee County, Oklahoma

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

We are pleased to write this letter in support of the Oklahoma Department of Transportation's (ODOT) application for the Bridge Investment Program (BIP). This project will replace the I-40 bridge over the Arkansas River at the Muskogee and Sequoyah County line in eastern Oklahoma.

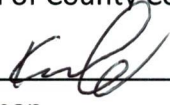
The I-40 bridge over the Arkansas River is a fracture critical bridge that carries a disproportionately high number of truck traffic. The average annual daily traffic count is 21,000 vehicles with an overwhelming 30% being truck traffic. These conditions have put added fatigue on the structure and reduced the anticipated lifespan of the bridge. The fracture damage cannot be repaired with maintenance or rehabilitation and can only be corrected by full replacement.

The I-40 Arkansas River bridge replacement project will construct safe, resilient infrastructure on the national Primary Highway Freight System (PHFS). The PHFS is identified as the most critical highway portions of the U.S. freight transportation system. Creating this dependable freight connection is a valuable investment in the economic success of the nation.

Thank you in advance for your strong consideration of ODOT's application for the Bridge Investment Program. Please contact our offices if you need any further assistance as you consider this important proposal.

Sincerely,

Muskogee Board of County Commissioners

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Ken Doke, Chairman

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Keith Hyslop, Member

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Kenny Payne, Member

## Sheila Shamblin

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**From:** Inger Peters <IPeters@odot.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 14, 2024 12:33 PM  
**To:** Sheila Shamblin  
**Subject:** Letter of Support Request - ODOT - 2025 Bridge Investment Program  
**Attachments:** I40 AR River Fact Sheet.pdf; I-40 AR River LOS Template.docx

Dear Muskogee County/Sheila Shamblin:

ODOT would like to request letters of support for the attached 2025 Bridge Investment Program application.

### **Interstate 40 Arkansas River Bridge Replacement: Requesting \$70,000,000**

- This project will replace the existing bridge over the Arkansas River.
- The disproportionally high amount of truck traffic across the bridge continues to have negative impact and reduced lifespan.
- Currently, replacement is only option to eliminate the unfavorable conditions on the existing bridge.

To ensure your letter is included in the application, **we are requesting that you return a pdf of your signed letter by end of day October 30, 2024.**

I have attached template letters of support for your use and fact sheets regarding the proposed project(s).

Please reach out if you have any questions or would like additional information.

Sincerely,

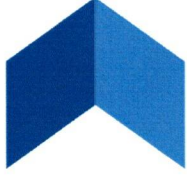
**Inger Peters** - for Michael Flynn.

Transportation Coordinator  
Project Management Division  
Oklahoma Department of Transportation  
Mobile: 405-301-7228



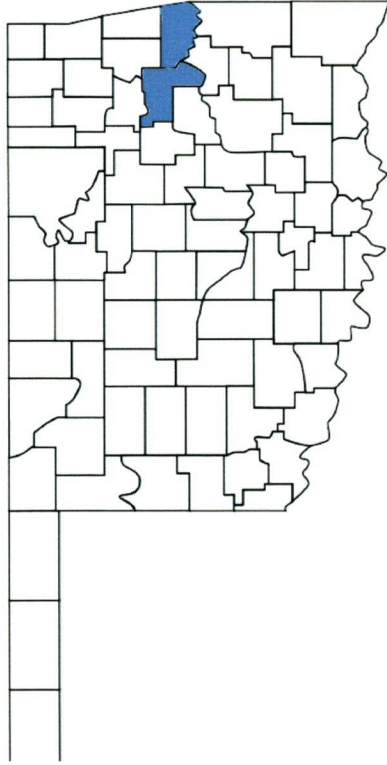


**OKLAHOMA**  
Transportation



2025 Bridge Investment Program

# I-40 Arkansas River Bridge Replacement Project



**BIP Request \$70,000,000**  
**Project Total \$99,000,000**

- I-40 is part of the Primary Highway Freight System and a crucial connection for freight traffic
- The Arkansas River Bridge has experience added fatigue creating a fracture critical bridge condition
- Bridge Replacement is the only method to correct the at-risk conditions

