



Gary Ridley,
Secretary of Transportation
Oklahoma Department of Transportation
200 NE 21st Street
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73105-3204

10 September 2009

Re: Expression of Support for the I-244 Bundle Project in Tulsa, Oklahoma

Dear Secretary Ridley,

The Tulsa Preservation Commission supports the Oklahoma Department of Transportation's I-244 Bundle project package for improvements across the Arkansas River in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Improvements in transportation safety and capacity provided by this multi-modal project are of unique value to our community and to the Tulsa Preservation Commission.

We are especially supportive of improvements to the c. 1916 Eleventh Street Arkansas River Bridge, which was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1996. This historic asset is valuable not just to Tulsa but statewide and even nationwide because of its importance in the development of the Mother Road and its association with Cyrus Avery, the father of Route 66.

Recognizing the highly competitive nature of the TIGER Program, we believe it is especially important that this project be funded due to broad range of community, state and federal goals for repairing critical system components, addressing safety issues, enhancing economic competitiveness, improving livability and establishing sustainable development and operations of transportation systems. The I-244 Bundle does all this for highway, freight and commuter rail traffic, and for area bicycle, walking and running enthusiasts.

Thanks for your positive consideration in this matter.

Respectfully,

Bob Sober
Vice-Chairman, Tulsa Preservation Commission

