

GARY M. RIDLEY  
Secretary of Transportation



MARY FALLIN  
Governor

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

May 9, 2011

The Honorable Tom Coburn, MD  
United States Senate  
172 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Attention: Hendrik Van Der Vaart

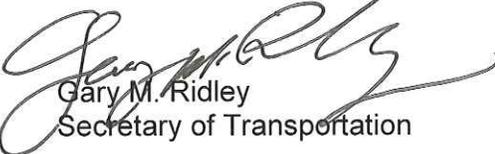
Dear Dr. Coburn:

The Department is corresponding with reference to the State Highway Flexibility Act as described in House Resolution 1585 authored by Congressman Lankford and is currently being considered in the House of Representatives Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. We are extremely grateful for your attention and support for the expeditious and effective investment of transportation dollars and for your efforts to bring sound reasoning to the financial crisis facing our nation.

We anticipate and agree that it will be very difficult for the congress to increase federal funding for transportation infrastructure in the foreseeable future. With consideration for flat or even reduced federal transportation funding levels, the congress should seek opportunities to empower states to quickly commit our available resources in order to efficiently deliver transportation projects and improvements. The Department believes the provisions of the State Highway Flexibility Act afford states with the opportunity to minimize the layered federal bureaucracy that can slow project delivery and more cost effectively further our commitment to the national transportation system. Even more importantly, states would possess the sole authority to responsibly execute and expedite the implementation of the transportation program.

The Department expects that most states would favorably receive such an opportunity and support the existence of these provisions in federal law. As always, your insight and efforts are greatly appreciated along with your steadfast commitment to improving the transportation system. Please feel free to call on us should you have questions, comments or if we can provide additional information.

Sincerely,

  
Gary M. Ridley  
Secretary of Transportation

xc: Congressman James Lankford