

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0403

May 10, 2024

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
H-307 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
1036 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for Construction of Future Interstate 49 in fiscal year 2025. The entity to receive funding for this project is the Arkansas Department of Transportation, located at 10324 Interstate 30 Little Rock, AR 72209. The funding would be used for the construction of a new, four-lane divided, Future Interstate 49, connecting Highway 22 in Sebastian County to the Interstate 40/Interstate 49 interchange in Crawford County. This work will include a new major bridge crossing the Arkansas River, as well as three new interchanges. The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because Interstate 49 is a congressionally designated High Priority Corridor running from Shreveport, Louisiana to Kansas City, Missouri. Interstate 49 is one of several corridors identified as nationally important by the U.S. Congress in the 1991 Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA). Constructing this segment of Interstate 49 is intended to complement the existing Interstate system, improve safety and efficiency of travel and commerce, and promote economic development. Being that Fort Smith is the 3rd largest city in Arkansas, the completion of this project would provide much needed congestion relief for the cities of Fort Smith and Van Buren. It will also move toward completing the nation's mid-south transcontinental corridor, linking the Gulf Coast with the central United States and Canada in support of international and domestic commerce, as well as tourism. The funding received for this project will be used towards various phases of this project.

The project has a Federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by 23 USC 133(b). I certify that I have no financial interest in this project, and neither does anyone in my immediate family.

Sincerely,



Steve Womack
Member of Congress