

Tuesday, May 28, 2024

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

RE: Active Transportation Infrastructure Investment Program (ATIIIP) Grant Opportunity for **Bridging the Gap: New Multimodal Connections over the Oklahoma River**

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of the Greater Oklahoma City Chamber, an economic development organization with over 3,500 members and strategic partner of the Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT), I am writing to express our organization's strong support of ODOT's application for the ATTP Grant for **Bridging the Gap: New Multimodal Connections over the Oklahoma River**. This application directly involves a landmark project in the core of Oklahoma City, the 20<sup>th</sup> largest city in the country.

I would like to emphasize the tremendous community impact of providing enhanced multi-modal non-vehicular connections for the Oklahoma City community. The safe, independent bridge will span the Oklahoma River, which has been dammed and provides a world-class venue for U.S. Olympic training for rowing, canoe and kayak and further elite and recreational activity. The Oklahoma River Trails are also located north and south of I-35 and adding a multimodal bridge adjacent to I-35 will improve access to 10 interconnected trails that cover over 80 miles and can take you to nearly any point in Oklahoma City.

Additionally, the multimodal bridge located adjacent to the iconic First Americans Museum showcasing the rich Native American history of Oklahoma and the United States, as well as a new \$400 million OKANA resort expected to be open spring 2025. Our Chamber, ODOT, and tribal nations work in close partnership and believe providing access will further promote these incredible cultural and recreational amenities. A vibrant and growing Hispanic community in the Capitol Hill neighborhood, a historically disadvantaged area, is served by connections across the river.

In conclusion, the Greater Oklahoma City Chamber strongly supports construction of a "New Multimodal Connection" over the Oklahoma due to its vital contribution to the region, state, and nation. We respectfully ask that you consider full funding for the project. Thank you for your consideration and please call on me or members of my team should you have questions that require additional information.

Sincerely,



Christy Gillenwater, President and CEO  
Greater OKC Chamber