



May 22, 2024

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

RE: Active Transportation Infrastructure Investment Program (“ATIIP”) grant opportunity for
“Bridging the Gap: New Multimodal Connections Over the Oklahoma River”

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

As chairman of the Oklahoma City Riverfront Redevelopment Authority, I am writing to support the Oklahoma Department of Transportation’s application for an ATIIP grant for the “Bridging the Gap: New Multimodal Connections Over the Oklahoma River” project. This marquis project, to construct a new multimodal bridge in Oklahoma City’s downtown core, would positively impact our community in many ways.

Since the current I-35 bridges were built more than three decades ago, the Oklahoma River has been dammed and now hosts elite national rowing events. The Boathouse District, located along the edge of the Oklahoma River in downtown Oklahoma City, is home to numerous community rowing programs and is an official US Olympic training site.

The scenic Oklahoma River is a seven-mile waterway running through the heart of Oklahoma City. Featuring 13 miles of paved trails, it has reinvented outdoor recreation in the downtown area. The new multimodal bridge would provide a safer, independent facility for pedestrian and bicycle access to the paved trails and other amenities on both sides of the Oklahoma River. It would link to ten, interconnected trails, covering more than 80 miles, that can be taken to almost any point in Oklahoma City. The project would also make connections between many unique elements along the Oklahoma River Trails, including the new Horizons District, the First Americans Museum, the OKANA Resort, and the historically disadvantaged Capitol Hill District.

For these reasons, I strongly support the project and urge that it be fully funded. Please contact us if you have questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,

Gary Marris, Chairman
Oklahoma City Riverfront Redevelopment Authority

c: Aubrey McDermid, OCRRA Surrogate General Manager
Melinda McMillan-Miller, OCRRA Surrogate General Manager
Jerod Beatty, Assistant Municipal Counselor