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Congress of the United States  
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June 11, 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: 2023 Active Transportation Infrastructure Investment Program (ATIP) Grant opportunity for Bridging the Gap: New Multimodal Connections over the Oklahoma River**

Honorable Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing to voice my strong support of the Oklahoma Department of Transportation's (ODOT) application for the ATIP Grant for Bridging the Gap: New Multimodal Connections over the Oklahoma River. This project will add a new and separate bridge over the Oklahoma River, reconnecting neighborhoods south of the river to downtown Oklahoma City for access to healthcare, education, employment and recreation. The existing I-35 bridges lack the adequate multimodal connections needed to allow for safety and accessibility.

The scenic Oklahoma River, a 7-mile-long waterway and 13 miles of paved trails runs along the edge of downtown Oklahoma City, has reinvented outdoor recreation in the capital city. The new bridge would provide a safe, independent facility for non-vehicular access to amenities on both sides of the river. This will link to 10 interconnected trails that cover over 80 miles and connects to almost every point in Oklahoma City. These new connections include the First Americans Museum, OKANA resort, and three historically disadvantaged Capitol Hill District south of the river to the Boathouse and Bricktown Entertainment Districts and the Riversport Complex to the north. The Oklahoma River is now host to elite national rowing races, and the home to US Olympic Team training.

I strongly support the New Multimodal Connections over the Oklahoma River Project in Oklahoma County for its vital contribution to Oklahoma and urge your support of full funding for the project. Thank you for your consideration and please feel free to call on us should you have questions or if you require additional information.

Sincerely,



Frank D. Lucas  
Member of Congress