



OKLAHOMA
Transportation



Hochatown Community Access and Pedestrian Safety Project

Letters of Support

Daniel Nguyen, P.E., MBA
ODOT Project Management, Division Manager
dnguyen@odot.org

FY23 MPD GRANT APPLICATION

MPD Grant Request: \$20 million

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

August 18, 2023

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

We are pleased to write this letter in support of the Oklahoma Department of Transportation's (ODOT) application for the Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant (MPDG) program. The *Hochatown Community Access and Pedestrian Safety Project* will expand a section of highway in rural Southeast Oklahoma which has seen substantial growth over the past decade.

Hochatown has become a popular attraction for many across Oklahoma, Arkansas, and Texas. Home to Broken Bow Lake and Beavers Bend State Park, along with numerous other attractions and businesses, this area of Southeast Oklahoma has become a hub for tourism and economic development. The growth has led to the community of Hochatown incorporating in November 2022, establishing a local government for the first time which lacks the resources to develop the highway infrastructure. The existing two-lane highway lacks shoulders and turn lanes which has increased the collision rates and restricts movement. The increased development and tourism have displayed the current lack of capacity and the need for major improvements.

The project proposed by ODOT will upgrade a six-mile section of US-259 by expanding the roadway, providing safety and operational improvements, along with improved access management. ODOT also looks to address alternative, multimodal transportation options by providing accessibility through sidewalks and trails. The improved US-259 will help incentivize economic development and sustain the growth that Hochatown has seen in recent years. Construction of the project will create a modernized, safer expanded highway with a shared-use path to support connectivity along the corridor and improve overall conditions for the community and visitors alike.

Thank you in advance for your strong consideration of ODOT's application for the MPDG program. Please contact our offices if you need any further assistance as you consider this important proposal.

Sincerely,



James Lankford
United States Senator



Markwayne Mullin
United States Senator



Josh Brecheen
Member of Congress



**Oklahoma
Forestry
Assn.**

Wednesday, August 16, 2023

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

RE: Hochatown Community Access and Pedestrian Safety Project (2023/2024 MPDG RURAL)

Honorable Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of the Oklahoma Forestry Association, I am writing in support of the Oklahoma Department of Transportation's 2023/2024 MPDG RURAL application for the Hochatown Community Access and Pedestrian Safety Project.

The Oklahoma Forestry Association represents professional logging contractors, the Forest Products industry and timberland owners across all of Oklahoma, most of which are located in the southeast corner of the state. The Hochatown Community Project will help facilitate safe travel for Industrial, Commercial and passenger vehicles, which at this time has proven to be very difficult and precarious with the increased tourism in the area.

Oklahoma Forestry Association supports the project for its vital contribution to the region, state and nation. We strongly urge your support of full funding for the project. Thank you for your consideration. Please feel free to contact me if you have questions or if you require additional information.

Respectfully,



W. Ryan Witt
OFA President



KIAMICHI ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT OF OKLAHOMA

A Regional Trust Authority of Local Governments

Thursday, August 10, 2023

OFFICERS:

Mike Brittingham
Chairman

Kevin Smith
1st Vice-Chairman

Jennifer Woods
2nd Vice-Chairperson

Jeremy Bullard
Secretary/Treasurer

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

RE: Hochatown Community Access and Pedestrian Safety Project (2023/2024 MPDG RURAL)

Honorable Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of the Kiamichi Economic Development District of Oklahoma, I am writing in support of the Oklahoma Department of Transportation's 2023/2024 MPDG RURAL application for the Hochatown Community Access and Pedestrian Safety Project.

PROGRAMS:

Area Agency
on Aging
(AAA)

Economic
Development

Geographic
Information
System
(GIS)

Rural Economic
Action Plan
(REAP)

Rural Fire
Defense

Over the past years, the project area has experienced a substantial increase in growth. Home to Broken Bow Lake and Beavers Bend State Park (the most visited state park in Oklahoma), recreational visitors from across Oklahoma, Texas, and Arkansas stream into the area, especially during weekends and holidays, drawn to the natural beauty and countless restaurants, recreational opportunities, and tourist attractions that line US-259. The area is also home to multiple industries, including agriculture and logging, which contribute to the traffic on US-259 through Hochatown.

This project will upgrade a six-mile section of US-259 in the newly formed Town of Hochatown in rural southeast Oklahoma. The project proposes to expand the roadway, provide safety and operational improvements, along with improved access management. The US-259 corridor through Hochatown currently experiences collision rates that are 3x higher than the statewide average. The potential project elements such as a dedicated center turning lane and the installation of street and permanent traffic lighting can significantly reduce serious traffic related injuries in this underserved rural community.

The Kiamichi Economic Development District of Oklahoma supports the project for its vital contribution to the region, state, and nation. We strongly urge your support for full funding for the project. Thank you for your consideration. Please feel free to contact me if you have questions or if you require additional information.

Sincerely,

Kim Rose, Executive Director
KEDDO



City of Broken Bow
Public Works Authority
Kulli Chito Environmental Authority



Friday, August 11, 2023

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


RE: Hochatown Community Access and Pedestrian Safety Project (2023/2024 MPDG RURAL)

Honorable Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of the City of Broken Bow, I am writing in support of the Oklahoma Department of Transportation's 2023/2024 MPDG RURAL application for the Hochatown Community Access and Pedestrian Safety Project.

Broken Bow supports the project for its vital contribution to the region, state and nation. We strongly urge your support of full funding for the project. Thank you for your consideration. Please feel free to contact me if you have questions or if you require additional information.

Sincerely,


Jerry Don Smith, Mayor



210 N. Broadway Street • Broken Bow, OK 74728
Phone: (580) 584-3407 • (580) 584-2282 • (580) 584-2885 • Fax: (580) 584-6898
TDD 800-722-0353 • TTY 800-522-8506/voice or 711 • Web: www.cityofbrokenbow.com
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Craig Young
Mayor



Kim Corley
City Clerk-Treasurer

Monday, August 14, 2023

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

RE: Hochatown Community Access and Pedestrian Safety Project (2023/2024 MPDG RURAL)

Honorable Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of the City of Idabel, I am writing in support of the Oklahoma Department of Transportation's 2023/2024 MPDG RURAL application for the Hochatown Community Access and Pedestrian Safety Project.

The City of Idabel supports the project for its vital contribution to the region, state and nation. We strongly urge your support of full funding for the project. Thank you for your consideration. Please feel free to contact me if you have questions or if you require additional information.

Sincerely,

Craig Young, Mayor
City of Idabel
201 East Main
Idabel OK 74745-4631
(580) 286-7608
cyoung@idabel-ok.gov



Wednesday, August 16, 2023

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

RE: Hochatown Community Access and Pedestrian Safety Project (2023/2024 MPDG RURAL)

Honorable Secretary Buttigieg:

As the “*voice of trucking*” in Oklahoma, we represent the unified interest of our member companies that literally have a front row seat to the needs of infrastructure across our state. Having polled our members, the Oklahoma Trucking Association, believes this project meets the desired goals state for the Oklahoma Department of Transportation's (ODOT) 2023/2024 MPDG RURAL application for the Hochatown Community Access and Pedestrian Safety Project.

As “*the voice of trucking*” safety is imperative to the industry, and we believe the following to be beneficial: The US-259 corridor through Hochatown experiences collision rates that are 3x higher than the statewide average. The current, two-lane roadway lacks shoulders or turn lanes, making vehicle movements challenging across the corridor. The project will protect nonmotorized travelers and communities from safety risks by constructing crossing improvements, new traffic lights at intersections, and completing a multi-use bike and pedestrian path adjacent to US-259. New street lighting in the newly formed town of Hochatown will improve nighttime visibility and reduce collisions involving dark conditions. The Project will reduce serious traffic related injuries in this underserved rural community. Potential Project elements such as a dedicated center turning lane and the installation of street and permanent traffic lighting can significantly reduce the risk of vehicular crashes.

The Oklahoma Trucking Association strongly supports this project for its vital contribution to the region, state and nation. We 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,

Jim Newport
CEO/President
Oklahoma Trucking Association

Zac Kannady
Chairman

Mario Archaga
First Vice Chairman

Bobby Smith
Second Vice Chairman

Jim Newport
President & CEO



OKLAHOMA TECHNOLOGY & MAINTENANCE COUNCIL
COUNCIL OF OKLAHOMA TRUCKING ASSOCIATION

OKLAHOMA SAFETY & SECURITY COUNCIL
COUNCIL OF OKLAHOMA TRUCKING ASSOCIATION



Friday, August 18, 2023

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

RE: Hochatown Community Access and Pedestrian Safety Project (2023/2024 MPDG RURAL)

Honorable Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of Broken Bow Vacation Cabins, I am writing in support of the Oklahoma Department of Transportation's 2023/2024 MPDG RURAL application for the Hochatown Community Access and Pedestrian Safety Project.

Broken Bow Vacation Cabins supports the project for its vital contribution to the region, state and nation. We strongly urge your support of full funding for the project. Thank you for your consideration. Please feel free to contact me if you have questions or if you require additional information.

Sincerely,

Tommy S McDaniel
Owner/Managing Partner
33 N. Lukfata Trl Rd
Hochatown, OK 74728



Friday, August 18, 2023

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

RE: Hochatown Community Access and Pedestrian Safety Project (2023/2024 MPDG RURAL)

Honorable Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of Hochatown Distilling Company, LLC, I am writing in support of the Oklahoma Department of Transportation's 2023/2024 MPDG RURAL application for the Hochatown Community Access and Pedestrian Safety Project.

Hochatown Distilling Co. supports the project for its vital contribution to the region, state and nation. We strongly urge your support of full funding for the project. Thank you for your consideration. Please feel free to contact me if you have questions or if you require additional information.

Sincerely,

Tommy S. McDaniel
Founding and Managing Partner
Hochatown Distilling Company, LLC
41 N. Lukfata Trl Rd
Hochatown, OK 74728
580-980-1290