



February 6, 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: Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (“RAISE”) 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 in support of the Oklahoma Department of Transportation’s application for the RAISE Grant for Bridging the Gap: New Multimodal Connections over the Oklahoma River. This marquis project in the downtown core of Oklahoma City would allow for construction of a separate bicycle and pedestrian bridge adjacent to I-35, as a component of the I-35 bridge replacement.

The project will offer tremendous, positive impacts for our community. Since the I-35 bridges were built more than three decades ago, the Oklahoma River has been dammed and now hosts elite rowing competitions. The area is also home to the Boathouse District and the Riversport Complex, which is a U.S. Olympic training site.

The scenic Oklahoma River runs along the edge of downtown Oklahoma City. The Oklahoma River Corridor includes a seven-mile waterway and 13 miles of paved, multi-use trails that have greatly enhanced outdoor recreation in our city. The new bicycle and pedestrian bridge would provide a safer, independent facility for bicycle and pedestrian access to amenities on both sides of the Oklahoma River. It would also link to ten, interconnected trails, covering more than 80 miles, that can be taken to almost every point in Oklahoma City. The project also makes 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. Thank you for your consideration of this important matter. Please contact us if you have questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,

Gary Marrs, 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