

Bridging The Gap: Multimodal Connections On I-35 Over The Oklahoma River

Oklahoma Department of Transportation
Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant Application
May 6, 2024



JAMES LANKFORD
OKLAHOMA

316 HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
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United States Senate

COMMITTEES:
FINANCE
ETHICS
INTELLIGENCE
HOMELAND SECURITY AND
GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

May 6, 2024

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am pleased to write this letter in support of the Oklahoma Department of Transportation's (ODOT) application for funding through the Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant (MPDG) program. This project would improve the connection of I-35 over the Oklahoma River, ensuring that this critical corridor will continue to serve the state and nation.

Interstate 35 in Oklahoma City intersects two major east-west freight corridors, I-40 and I-44, making the I-35 bridges in Oklahoma City critically located at the crossroads of intercontinental movement, linking the west and east coasts to major urban areas throughout the country. The existing northbound and southbound I-35 bridges that cross the Oklahoma River were built over three decades ago and do not meet the current and future demands of a highly travelled interstate corridor. The two bridges in Oklahoma City see nearly 18,000 trucks per day and ODOT has identified the corridor as a freight bottleneck. Additionally, neighborhoods south of the river have lacked connections to Central Oklahoma City for access to healthcare, education, and employment.

The project proposes to replace the two existing I-35 bridges over the Oklahoma River, including a ramp bridge connection, and the addition pedestrian bridge to provide multimodal access across the river. Completion of this project would provide safety for freight and pedestrians, increase capacity for future generations, and allow for continued contributions to the national economy.

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

In God We Trust,



James Lankford
United States Senator for Oklahoma

STEPHANIE BICE
5TH DISTRICT, OKLAHOMA

2437 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
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500 N. BROADWAY AVE
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(405) 300-6890

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3605
May 6, 2024

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
COMMITTEE ON BUDGET
COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION
COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE,
AND TECHNOLOGY
DEPUTY WHIP
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NATIONAL SECURITY COMMISSION
ON EMERGING BIOTECHNOLOGY

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

Re: Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant - Multimodal Connections on I-35 over the
Oklahoma River

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I write to request your full and equitable consideration of the Oklahoma Department of Transportation's (ODOT) application for the Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant (MPDG) program. The project proposes to replace the two existing I-35 bridges over the Oklahoma River, including a ramp bridge connection, and the addition of a pedestrian bridge to provide multimodal access across the river.

Interstate 35 in Oklahoma City intersects two major east-west freight corridors, I-40 and I-44, making the I-35 bridges in Oklahoma City critically located at the crossroads of intercontinental movement, linking the west and east coasts to major urban areas throughout the country. The existing northbound and southbound I-35 bridges that cross the Oklahoma River do not meet the current and future demands of a highly travelled interstate corridor. The two bridges in Oklahoma City see nearly 18,000 trucks per day and ODOT has identified the corridor as a freight bottleneck.

Completion of this project would provide safety for freight and pedestrians, increase capacity for future generations, and allow for continued contributions to the national economy.

Thank you in for your consideration of Oklahoma Department of Transportation's application for the Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant program.

Sincerely,



Stephanie I. Bice
Member of Congress



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

The Chickasaw Nation
Post Office Box 1548 • Ada, Oklahoma 74821
(580) 436-2603 • Fax (580) 436-4287
<http://www.chickasaw.net>

BILL ANOATUBBY
GOVERNOR

August 8, 2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg, Secretary
United State Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

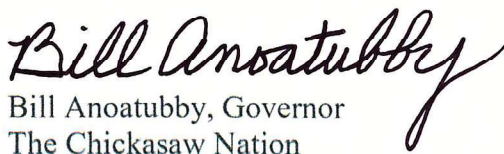
The Chickasaw Nation is pleased to support the Oklahoma Department of Transportation in its efforts to construct a signature bridge spanning the Oklahoma River on Interstate 35 near downtown Oklahoma City. The new span will serve as a visual touchstone the millions of travelers who pass through Oklahoma City at the intersection of Interstates 35 and 40, often referenced as the Crossroads of America.

The Chickasaw Nation recently broke ground on the OKANA Resort and Indoor Waterpark, a \$400 million resort-style destination adjacent to the recently opened First Americans Museum in the area where this bridge would stand. We believe the creation of a signature bridge crossing the Oklahoma River at this location will greatly enhance access to both our resort development and the museum.

As proposed, this bridge will serve as both a tangible and symbolic link between the numerous successful tourism attractions and businesses on the north side of the river, including the OKC Boat House District, Bricktown entertainment area, and Oklahoma City's new convention center, and the historically economically depressed communities along the south bank of the Oklahoma River that our OKANA development seeks to uplift. Additionally, this project will significantly expand cooperation between private, city, state, tribal, and federal partners while serving as an integral part of Oklahoma City transportation infrastructure.

Thank you for your time and attention. It is our sincere hope the project will receive favorable consideration for available federal funding opportunities.

Sincerely,


Bill Anoatubby, Governor
The Chickasaw Nation



**THE CITY OF
OKLAHOMA CITY**

Mayor David Holt

200 N Walker, 3rd Floor
Oklahoma City, OK 73102

ph 405/297-2424
mayor@okc.gov

 @davidholt

 fb.com/mayordavidholt

 @mayordavidholt

 okc.gov/mayor

May 3, 2024

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of the people of Oklahoma City, I am writing to voice our city's strong support of the Oklahoma Department of Transportation's (ODOT) application for the Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant (MPDG) program. This project would improve the connection of I-35 over the Oklahoma River, ensuring that this critical corridor will continue to serve the state and nation's interstate system.

Interstate 35 in Oklahoma City intersects two other major east-west freight corridors, I-40 and I-44, making the I-35 bridges in Oklahoma City critically located at the crossroads of intercontinental travel, linking the west and east coasts to major urban areas throughout the country. The existing northbound and southbound I-35 bridges that cross the Oklahoma River do not meet the current and future demands of a highly travelled interstate corridor. The two bridges in Oklahoma City see nearly 18,000 trucks per day and ODOT has identified the corridor as a freight bottleneck. Additionally, neighborhoods south of the river lack connections to central Oklahoma City for access to health care, education and employment.

Perhaps the most unique aspect of this I-35 bridge replacement project is the tremendous community impacts that the bridge replacement will offer our community. Since these bridges were built over three decades ago, the Oklahoma River has been dammed and is now host to elite national rowing races. In addition, near the edge of the river is the Riversport OKC Complex which is home to US Olympic Team training.

The project proposes to replace the two existing I-35 bridges over the Oklahoma River, including a ramp bridge connection, and the addition of a pedestrian bridge to provide multimodal access across the river. Completion of this project would provide safety for freight and pedestrians, increase capacity for future generations, and allow for continued contributions to the national economy.

Thank you for your consideration of ODOT's application for the MPDG program. Please contact my office if you need any further assistance as you consider this proposal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Holt".

David Holt
Mayor

May 2, 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: Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant (MPDG) opportunity for Bridging the Gap:
Multimodal Connections on I-35 over the Oklahoma River**

Honorable Secretary Buttigieg:

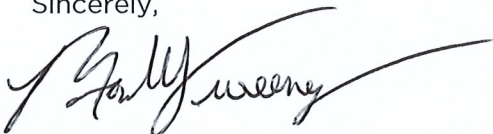
On behalf of the Association of Central Oklahoma Governments (ACOG), I am writing to voice our organization's strong support of the Oklahoma Department of Transportation's (ODOT) application for the Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant (MPDG) program. This project would improve the connection of I-35 over the Oklahoma River, ensuring that this critical corridor will continue to serve the state and nation's interstate system.

Interstate 35 in Oklahoma City intersects two other major east-west freight corridors, I-40 and I-44, making the I-35 bridges in Oklahoma City critically located at the crossroads of intercontinental movement, linking the west and east coasts to major urban areas throughout the country. The existing northbound and southbound I-35 bridges that cross the Oklahoma River fail to meet the current and future demands of a highly travelled interstate corridor. The two bridges in Oklahoma City see nearly 18,000 trucks per day and ODOT has identified the corridor as a freight bottleneck. Additionally, neighborhoods south of the river lack connections to central Oklahoma City for access to healthcare, education, and employment.

The project proposes to replace the two existing I-35 bridges over the Oklahoma River, including a ramp bridge connection, and the addition of a pedestrian bridge to provide multimodal access across the river. Completion of this project would provide safety for freight and pedestrians, increase capacity for future generations, and allow for continued contributions to the national economy.

ACOG strongly supports the Multimodal Connections on I-35 over the Oklahoma River Project in Oklahoma County for its vital contribution, and we urge your support of full funding for the project. We appreciate your consideration of ODOT's proposal. If we can provide any additional information for this effort, please feel free to contact me at (405) 234-2264 or msweeney@acogok.org.

Sincerely,



Mark W. Sweeney, AICP
Executive Director

2000 S MAY AVENUE
OKLAHOMA CITY, OK 73108

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administration
405.297.1331

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April 24, 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: Bridging the Gap: Multimodal Connections on I-35 over the Oklahoma River

Honorable Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of EMBARK, Oklahoma City's public transportation and parking agency, please accept this letter of support for the Oklahoma Department of Transportation's (ODOT) application for the Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant (MPDG) program. This project would improve the connection of I-35 over the Oklahoma River, ensuring that this critical corridor will continue to serve the state and nation's interstate system.

Interstate 35 in Oklahoma City intersects two other major east-west freight corridors, I-40, and I-44, making the I-35 bridges in Oklahoma City critically located at the crossroads of intercontinental movement, linking the west and east coasts to major urban areas throughout the country. The existing northbound and southbound I-35 bridges that cross the Oklahoma River do not meet the current and future demands of a highly travelled interstate corridor. The two bridges in Oklahoma City see nearly 18,000 trucks per day and ODOT has identified the corridor as a freight bottleneck. Additionally, neighborhoods south of the river lack connections to Central Oklahoma City for access to healthcare, education, and employment.

The project proposes to replace the two existing I-35 bridges over the Oklahoma River, including a ramp bridge connection, and the addition of a pedestrian bridge to provide multimodal access across the river. Completion of this project would provide safety for freight and pedestrians, increase capacity for future generations, and allow for continued contributions to the national economy.

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jason Ferbrache".

Jason Ferbrache
Director, EMBARK and Administrator, Central Oklahoma Transportation and
Parking Authority



August 1, 2023

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

Dear Mr. Secretary,

First Americans Museum (FAM) is happy to support the effort by the Oklahoma Department of Transportation to create a signature bridge near downtown Oklahoma City. FAM opened in September 2021 and has received over 200,000 visitors from all 50 states and over 30 countries. A signature bridge crossing the Oklahoma River will allow more access to the museum and the development district being built adjacent to the museum. It will also benefit the greater Oklahoma City community.

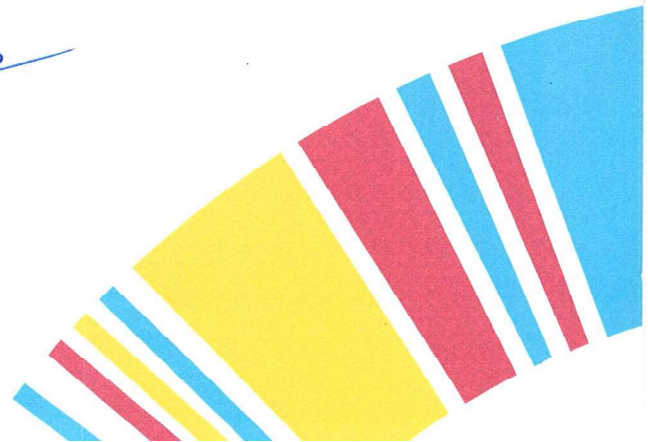
Creating another iconic landmark in the Oklahoma City metro area helps create a unique sense of place. The bridge has the power of becoming recognizable at a central and important intersection. Enhancing access to many attractions and businesses near the river will have significant and positive impact on the economic development all along the waterfront, including the OKC Boat House District, Skybridge Park, Bricktown and Deep Deuce.

First Americans Museum welcomes and supports the Oklahoma City signature bridge project. Please feel free to reach out to discuss any concerns or questions associated with this important new addition to the OKC metro landscape.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jamie Lynn Henry'. The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a white background.

CEO & Executive Director





May 1, 2024

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. This project would improve the connection of I-35 over the Oklahoma River, ensuring that this critical corridor will continue to serve the state and nation's interstate system.

Interstate 35 in Oklahoma City intersects two other major east-west freight corridors, I-40 and I-44, making the I-35 bridges in Oklahoma City critically located at the crossroads of intercontinental movement, linking the west and east coasts to major urban areas throughout the country. The existing northbound and southbound I-35 bridges that cross the Oklahoma River do not meet the current and future demands of a highly travelled interstate corridor. The two bridges in Oklahoma City see nearly 18,000 trucks per day and ODOT has identified the corridor as a freight bottleneck. Additionally, neighborhoods south of the river lack connections to Central Oklahoma City for access to healthcare, education, and employment.

The project proposes to replace the two existing I-35 bridges over the Oklahoma River, including a ramp bridge connection, and the addition of a pedestrian bridge to provide multimodal access across the river. Completion of this project would provide safety for freight and pedestrians, increase capacity for future generations, and allow for continued contributions to the national economy.

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chad Warmington". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Chad Warmington
President & CEO
The State Chamber of Oklahoma

G R E A T E R
OKLAHOMA CITY
C H A M B E R

April 24, 2024

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of the Greater Oklahoma City Chamber, a regional economic development organization with over 3,000 members, I am pleased to write this letter in strong support of the Oklahoma Department of Transportation's (ODOT) application for the Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant (MPDG) program. This project would improve the connection of I-35 over the Oklahoma River. With respect to capturing this once in decades opportunity, we have formed an active partnership with the objective of replacing the current bridges with iconic structures that would showcase our state's rich Native American heritage, further boost U.S. Olympic training sites, and promote increased tourism opportunities.

Interstate 35 in Oklahoma City intersects two other major east-west freight corridors, I-40 and I-44. The existing northbound and southbound I-35 bridges that cross the Oklahoma River do not meet the current and future demands of a highly travelled interstate corridor. The two bridges in Oklahoma City see nearly 18,000 trucks per day and ODOT has identified the corridor as a freight bottleneck. Additionally, underserved neighborhoods south of the river lack connections to central Oklahoma City for access to healthcare, education, and employment.

As I referenced earlier, the suite of world-class amenities situated in the vicinity of the I-35 river bridges are significant. The Chickasaw Nation and its tribal partners operate the First Americans Museum showcasing the tribal story in America, and next year, will open an adjacent \$300 million OKANA resort in the heart of Oklahoma City. The Oklahoma River is the site of U.S. Olympic Canoe and Kayak, and many professional, intercollegiate, and youth rowing competitions. Currently, the bridges are constructed in a manner that prevents rowing beneath them and curtails opportunity for longer courses. We envision the design of new bridges solving this issue. The project proposes to replace the two existing I-35 bridges over the Oklahoma River, including a ramp bridge connection, and the addition of a pedestrian bridge to provide multimodal access across the river. Completion of this project would provide safety for freight and pedestrians, increase capacity for future generations, promote our growing tourism economy, and allow for continued contributions to the national economy.

Thank you for your strong consideration of ODOT's application. Please contact the Chamber if you need any further assistance as you consider this important proposal.

Sincerely,



Christy Gillenwater, President/CEO
Greater OKC Chamber



OKLAHOMA
Tourism & Recreation

123 Robert S Kerr Ave, Ste 1000
Oklahoma City, OK 73102

Friday, April 26, 2024

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

Honorable Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department (OTRD), I am writing to voice our support for the Oklahoma Department of Transportation's (ODOT) application for the Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant (MPDG) program. This project would improve the connection of I-35 over the Oklahoma River, ensuring that this critical corridor will continue to serve the state and nation's interstate system.

Interstate 35 in Oklahoma City intersects two other major east-west freight corridors, I-40 and I-44, making the I-35 bridges in Oklahoma City critically located at the crossroads of intercontinental movement, linking the west and east coasts to major urban areas throughout the country. The existing northbound and southbound I-35 bridges that cross the Oklahoma River do not meet the current and future demands of a highly travelled interstate corridor. The two bridges in Oklahoma City see nearly 18,000 trucks per day and ODOT has identified the corridor as a freight bottleneck. Additionally, neighborhoods south of the river lack connections to Central Oklahoma City for access to healthcare, education, and employment.

The project proposes to replace the two existing I-35 bridges over the Oklahoma River, including a ramp bridge connection, and the addition of a pedestrian bridge to provide multimodal access across the river. Completion of this project would provide safety for freight and pedestrians, increase capacity for future generations, and allow for continued contributions to the national economy.

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.

Best Regards,

Shelley Zumwalt (Apr 26, 2024 11:48 CDT)

Shelley Zumwalt
Secretary of Tourism, Wildlife & Heritage



Friday, April 26, 2024

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

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) application for the Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant (MPDG) program. This project would improve the connection of I-35 over the Oklahoma River, ensuring that this critical corridor will continue to serve the state and nation’s interstate system.

Interstate 35 in Oklahoma City intersects two other major east-west freight corridors, I-40 and I-44, making the I-35 bridges in Oklahoma City critically located at the crossroads of intercontinental movement, linking the west and east coasts to major urban areas throughout the country. The existing northbound and southbound I-35 bridges that cross the Oklahoma River do not meet the current and future demands of a highly travelled interstate corridor. The two bridges in Oklahoma City see nearly 18,000 trucks per day and ODOT has identified the corridor as a freight bottleneck. Additionally, neighborhoods south of the river lack connections to Central Oklahoma City for access to healthcare, education, and employment.

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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 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,

Jim Newport
CEO/President
Oklahoma Trucking Association

Mario Archaga
Chairman

Bobby Smith
First Vice Chairman

Carmalieta Wells
Second Vice Chairman

Jim Newport
President & CEO



OKLAHOMA BICYCLE SOCIETY



Since 1974

4/25/2024

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. This project would improve the connection of I-35 over the Oklahoma River, ensuring that this critical corridor will continue to serve the state and nation's interstate system.

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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,
Angela Coffman
Oklahoma Bicycle Society President

April 30, 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: Bridging the Gap: Multimodal Connections on I-35 over the Oklahoma River (2025/2026 MPDG)

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of the Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT), I am pleased to present this application for 2025/2026 Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant (MPDG) funds. We take pride in our mission “to provide a safe, economical and effective transportation network for the people, commerce and communities of Oklahoma” and this application has been developed in this spirit.

ODOT is committing \$38,022,624 in non-federal funds of future eligible project costs as local match for the project should it be selected for award.

Sincerely,



Tim J. Gatz
Executive Director