



American Canoe Association
Canoe – Kayak – SUP – Raft – Rescue
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May 21, 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

Honorable Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of the American Canoe Association, I am writing to voice our organization's strong support of the Oklahoma Department of Transportation's (ODOT) application for the ATTIP Grant for Bridging the Gap: New Multimodal Connections over the Oklahoma River. This project is a marquis project in the downtown core of Oklahoma City.

Perhaps the most unique aspect of this new multimodal bridge project is the tremendous community impact that the bridge will offer the Oklahoma City community. Since the I-35 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 new Riversport Complex which is home to US Olympic Team training and highly regarded international and national competitions.

Along the edge of downtown Oklahoma City runs the scenic Oklahoma River, a 7-mile-long waterway and 13 miles of paved trails that has reinvented outdoor recreation in the capital city. The new bridge would provide a safer independent facility to provide non-vehicular access to amenities and the paved trails on both sides of the river. This will improve access to 10 interconnected trails that cover over 80 miles and can take you to almost every point in Oklahoma City. This project includes connections to the First Americans Museum and the largely Hispanic Capitol Hill district and Historically Disadvantaged Community located on the south side of the Oklahoma River.

The American Canoe Association strongly supports the New Multimodal Connections over the Oklahoma River Project in Oklahoma County 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 and please feel free to call on us if you have any questions or require any additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Beth Spilman".

Beth Spilman
Executive Director



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