

Wednesday, May 29th, 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:

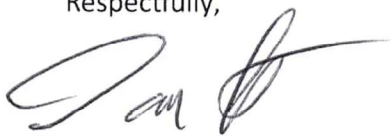
On behalf of the Greater OKC Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, I am writing to voice our organization's strong support of the Oklahoma Department of Transportation's (ODOT) application for the ATTIP Grant for Bridging the Gap: New Multimodal Connections over the Oklahoma River. This project is a marquis 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.

Along the edge of downtown Oklahoma City runs the scenic Oklahoma River, a 7-mile-long waterway, and 13 miles of paved trails that have reinvented outdoor recreation in the capital city. The new bridge would provide a safer independent facility to provide non-vehicular access to amenities and 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 Greater OKC Hispanic Chamber of Commerce 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 should you have questions or if you require additional information.


Respectfully,



Mr. David Castillo
President & CEO
Greater OKC Hispanic Chamber of Commerce

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About the Greater OKC Hispanic Chamber of Commerce:

The Greater Oklahoma City Hispanic Chamber of Commerce is a community-based organization located in the heart of Oklahoma City with a membership of over 400. The Chamber is a nonprofit 501(c) 6 organization whose primary purpose is to serve local community needs, focusing on those that impact businesses.

The Greater Oklahoma City Hispanic Chamber of Commerce was founded by a group of Hispanic entrepreneurs on June 12, 2000. The purpose of this organization is to promote the advancement of the commercial and economic interests of Hispanic-owned businesses, Hispanic-managed businesses, and the Hispanic-oriented businesses, trades and professionals in central Oklahoma.

In our twenty-one years of existence, the Greater Oklahoma City Hispanic Chamber of Commerce has focused on business development issues. In a new initiative, the board has expanded that focus to include a range of community development issues including:

- Business Development
- Physical Infrastructure
- Cultural and Environmental Stewardship
- Workforce Development
- Education
- Civic Infrastructure
- Business assistance through our Business Assistance Center
- The Women's Business Center

Activities

- The Greater Oklahoma City Hispanic Chamber of Commerce frequently provides services to the Hispanic community in the form of business training workshops as well as one on one counseling through our Business Assistance Center.
- ¡Viva Expo!, the Chamber's annual business and consumer expo where over 100 Hispanic and non-Hispanic businesses promote and display products and services. Over 10,000 people attended over the years.
- Monthly network "Business After Hours" for members to network and promote their business and projects. The monthly network is held every fourth Thursday of the month.
- Gala/ Silent Auction and awards ceremony.
- ¡Viva Sabor!- Wine tasting and Hispanic and Latino food tasting event is done twice a year. Some of the finest restaurants offering samples of the best Hispanic and Latino dishes in Oklahoma. Featuring entertainment as well as Hispanic and Latino Art
- Ribbon cuttings for new businesses
- 'Who's Hiring Now' Bilingual job/career fairs are held throughout the year
- Food Certification classes are held 5 times a year in Spanish
- Latino Leadership Class (LLOK) sessions run throughout the year.
- Women's Business Center (HCWBC) concentrates on helping women launch or expand their business