



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

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BILL ANOATUBBY
GOVERNOR

November 16, 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 (ODOT) in its application for funding through the Bridge Investment Program to improve the Interstate 35 bridge over the Oklahoma River in Oklahoma City.

Interstate 35 intersects two major east-west freight corridors in Oklahoma City, Interstates 40 and 44. For this reason, the Interstate 35 bridges in Oklahoma City are vital infrastructure components in the interstate highway system linking the west and east coasts to major urban areas throughout the country. These two bridges accommodate nearly 18,000 trucks per day and have been identified as a freight bottleneck by ODOT.

The existing northbound and southbound Interstate 35 bridges crossing the Oklahoma River do not meet the current and future demands of a highly travelled interstate corridor. The ODOT project proposes to replace the two existing Interstate 35 bridges, including a ramp bridge connection, and the addition of a pedestrian bridge to provide multimodal access across the river. ODOT has secured commitments from the City of Oklahoma City to contribute to the pedestrian, bike, and scooter bridge. Completion of this project would provide safety for both freight and pedestrians, allow for continued growth in the local and national economies, and provide historically disadvantaged populations in neighborhoods south of the river with access to healthcare, education, and employment.

Thank you for your time and attention. It is our sincere hope the project will receive favorable consideration for funding through the Bridge Investment Program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bill Anoatubby".

Bill Anoatubby, Governor
The Chickasaw Nation