



July 18, 2024

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

First Americans Museum (FAM) is pleased to support The Oklahoma Department of Transportation in pursuing fund awards to create a multiuse pedestrian bridge over the Oklahoma River.

FAM is happy to support the effort by the Oklahoma Department of Transportation to create a multimodal pedestrian bridge near downtown Oklahoma City. FAM opened in September 2021 and has welcomed nearly 400,000 visitors from all 50 states and over 38 countries. A pedestrian bridge crossing the Oklahoma River will allow more access to the museum and the newly announced Horizons District, which includes the OKANA Resort and Indoor Waterpark, conference center, and over a dozen food, beverage, and retail outlets. It will also benefit the greater Oklahoma City community by making a new pedestrian connection where there currently is not one. This will allow the historically disadvantaged communities and areas of persistent poverty south of the river to have new opportunities for employment, education, and healthcare.

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

FAM welcomes and supports the Oklahoma City Multimodal 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.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Shoshana Wasserman'.

Shoshana Wasserman
Thlopthlocco Tribal Town, Muscogee Nation
FAM Deputy Director

