



November 8, 2023

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 Interstate 35 Over the Oklahoma River

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

As chairman of the Oklahoma City Riverfront Redevelopment Authority, I am writing to support the application by the Oklahoma Department of Transportation (“ODOT”) for a 2023/2024 Bridge Investment Program grant for ***Bridging the Gap: Multimodal Connections on Interstate 35 Over the Oklahoma River (“Project”)***.

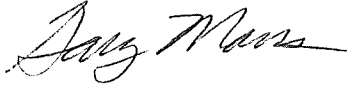
The Project would improve the connection of Interstate 35 over the Oklahoma River, ensuring that this critical corridor will continue to serve the state and the nation’s interstate system. In Oklahoma City, Interstate 35 intersects two other major, east-west freight corridors, Interstate 40 and Interstate 44. As a result, the Interstate 35 bridges in Oklahoma City are at the crossroads of intercontinental movement; they link the east and west coasts to major urban areas throughout the country.

The existing northbound and southbound Interstate 35 bridges that cross the Oklahoma River do not meet 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 Oklahoma River lack connections to Central Oklahoma City for access to healthcare, education, employment, and other critical destinations.

The Project proposes to replace the two existing Interstate 35 bridges over the Oklahoma River, including a ramp bridge connection. The Project would also add a pedestrian bridge for multimodal access across the Oklahoma River. ODOT has secured commitments from the City of Oklahoma City to contribute to the pedestrian, bike, and scooter bridge. Completion of the Project would provide safety for freight and pedestrians, increase capacity for future generations, and allow for continued contributions to the national economy.

For these reasons, I support the Project and urge that it be fully funded. Thank you for your consideration of this important matter. Please contact us if you have questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Gary Marris".

Gary Marris, Chairman
Oklahoma City Riverfront Redevelopment Authority

- c: Aubrey McDermid, OCRRA Surrogate General Manager
- Melinda McMillan-Miller, OCRRA Surrogate General Manager
- Jerod Beatty, Assistant Municipal Counselor