



**THE CITY OF
OKLAHOMA CITY**

Mayor David Holt

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The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
U.S. Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

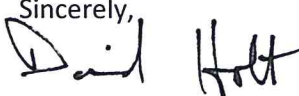
Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

On behalf of The City of Oklahoma City I am writing to voice our city's strong support of the Oklahoma Department of Transportation's (ODOT) application for the RAISE Grant for Bridging the Gap: New Multimodal Connections over the Oklahoma River. Our city is a partner with ODOT on this critical project in the downtown core of Oklahoma City. This RAISE Grant application is to construct a separate bicycle and pedestrian bridge adjacent to I-35 as a component of the I-35 bridge replacement project.

Perhaps the most unique aspect of this I-35 bridge replacement 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 an official U.S. Olympic training site.

Along the edge of downtown Oklahoma City runs the scenic Oklahoma River, a 7-mile-long waterway with 13 miles of paved trails. This River and its adjacent amenities have reinvented outdoor recreation in the capital city. The new bridge would provide a safer independent facility for bicycle and pedestrian access to the amenities on both sides of the river. This will link to 10 interconnected trails we have already constructed that cover over nearly 100 miles and can take you to almost every point in Oklahoma City. This project includes connections to the new Horizons District, including the First Americans Museum and OKANA resort, as well as the Capitol Hill District, in the heart of our Latino community.

The City of Oklahoma City strongly supports the New Multimodal Connections over the Oklahoma River Project in Oklahoma County and urges your support of full funding for the project. Thank you for your consideration and please feel free to call on us if you have questions or require additional information.

Sincerely,

David Holt
Mayor