OKLAHOMA Transportation

Hochatown Community Access and Pedestrian Safety Project

Letters of Support

Daniel Nguyen, P.E., MBA
Director of Project Delivery
dnguyen@odot.org

FY2025-2026 MPDG Application

MPDG Request: $30 million

MARKWAYNE MULLIN
OKLAHOMA

COMMITTEES:
ARMED SERVICES
ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS
HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR AND PENSIONS
INDIAN AFFAIRS

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 1, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I am writing to express my support for the Oklahoma Department of Transportation's (ODOT) application for the Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant (MPDG) program. If awarded, the ODOT will use this grant towards the Hochatown Community Access and Pedestrian Safety Project to expand a section of highway in rural Southeast Oklahoma.

This project will upgrade a six-mile section of US-259 with roadway expansions and safety and operational improvements. These upgrades will create a modernized, safer expanded highway with a shared-use path to support access along the corridor and improve overall conditions for the community. These changes to US-259 will sustain the growth that Hochatown has seen in recent years and increase the economic development of the area.

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to our Tulsa office at 918-921-8520. Thank you for your thoughtful consideration.

God Bless,

Markwayne Mullin
United States Senate

JAMES LANKFORD
OKLAHOMA

316 HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510
(202) 224–5754

United States Senate

COMMITTEES:
FINANCE
ETHICS
INTELLIGENCE
HOMELAND SECURITY AND
GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

May 6, 2024

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am pleased to write this letter in support of the Oklahoma Department of Transportation's (ODOT) application for funding through the Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant (MPDG) program. The *Hochatown Community Access and Pedestrian Safety Project* will expand a section of highway in rural Southeast Oklahoma which has seen substantial growth over the past decade.

Hochatown has become a popular attraction for many across Oklahoma, Arkansas, and Texas. Home to Broken Bow Lake and Beavers Bend State Park, along with numerous other attractions and businesses, this area of Southeast Oklahoma has become a hub for tourism and economic development. The growth has led to the community of Hochatown incorporating in November 2022, establishing a local government for the first time which lacks the resources to develop the highway infrastructure. The existing two-lane highway lacks shoulders and turn lanes which has increased the collision rates and restricts movement. The increased development and tourism have exacerbated the current lack of capacity and the need for major improvements.

The project proposed by ODOT will upgrade a six-mile section of US-259 by expanding the roadway, providing safety and operational improvements, along with improved access management. ODOT also looks to address alternative, multimodal transportation options by providing accessibility through sidewalks and trails. The improved US-259 will help incentivize economic development and sustain the growth that Hochatown has seen in recent years. Construction of the project will create a modernized, safer expanded highway with a shared-use path to support connectivity along the corridor and improve overall conditions for the community and visitors alike.

Thank you in advance for your strong consideration of ODOT's application for the MPDG program. Please contact my office should you need any further assistance as you consider this important proposal.

In God We Trust,

James Lankford
United States Senator for Oklahoma

REP. JOSH BRECHEEN
2ND DISTRICT OF OKLAHOMA

COMMITTEE ON
HOMELAND SECURITY

COMMITTEE ON
THE BUDGET

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

April 22, 2024

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

Re: Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant - Hochatown Community Access and Pedestrian Safety Project

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

We are pleased to write this letter in support of the Oklahoma Department of Transportation's (ODOT) application for the Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant (MPDG) program. The Hochatown Community Access and Pedestrian Safety Project will expand a section of highway in rural Southeast Oklahoma which has seen substantial growth over the past decade.

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Thank you in advance for your strong consideration of ODOT's application for the MPDG program. Please contact our offices if you need any further assistance as you consider this important proposal.

Sincerely,

Josh Brecheen
Member of Congress

DocuSign Envelope ID: DDCFC788-9F88-43CA-BB0B-990AF3A1288D

May 2, 2024

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

We are pleased to write this letter in support of the Oklahoma Department of Transportation's (ODOT) application for the Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant (MPDG) program. The Hochatown Community Access and Pedestrian Safety Project will expand a section of highway in rural Southeast Oklahoma which has seen substantial growth over the past decade.

Hochatown has become a popular attraction for many across Oklahoma, Arkansas, and Texas. Home to Broken Bow Lake and Beavers Bend State Park, along with numerous other attractions and businesses, this area of Southeast Oklahoma has become a hub for tourism and economic development. The growth has led to the community of Hochatown incorporating in November 2022, establishing a local government for the first time which lacks the resources to develop the highway infrastructure. The existing two-lane highway lacks shoulders and turn lanes which has increased the collision rates and restricts movement. The increased development and tourism have displayed the current lack of capacity and the need for major improvements.

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Thank you in advance for your strong consideration of ODOT's application for the MPDG program. Please contact our offices if you need any further assistance as you consider this important proposal.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:
4F80DD2A6040446...

Gary Batton
Chief of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

Office of the Mayor
Town of Hochatown
P.O. Box 459
Broken Bow, OK 74728
940-600-2713

Friday, May 3, 2024

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

The Town of Hochatown is pleased to write this letter in support of the Oklahoma Department of Transportation's (ODOT) application for the Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant (MPDG) program. The Hochatown Community Access and Pedestrian Safety Project will expand a section of highway in rural Southeast Oklahoma which has seen substantial growth over the past decade.

Hochatown has become a popular attraction for many across Oklahoma, Arkansas, and Texas. Home to Broken Bow Lake and Beavers Bend State Park, along with numerous other attractions and businesses, this area of Southeast Oklahoma has become a hub for tourism and economic development. The growth has led to the community of Hochatown incorporating in November 2022, establishing a local government for the first time which lacks the resources to develop the highway infrastructure. The existing two-lane highway lacks shoulders and turn lanes which has increased the collision rates and restricts movement. The increased development and tourism have displayed the current lack of capacity and the need for major improvements.

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Thank you in advance for your strong consideration of ODOT's application for the MPDG program. Please contact our offices if you need any further assistance as you consider this important proposal.

Sincerely,

Dian Jordan, Ph.D.
Mayor

JOHN WILLIAMS
DISTRICT 1
BROKEN BOW

TINA FOSHEE THOMAS
DISTRICT 2
IDABEL

ROBERT BECK
DISTRICT 3
VALLIANT

THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

McCURTAIN COUNTY
P.O. Box 1078 - Idabel, Oklahoma 74745
580-286-7428

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

We are pleased to write this letter in support of the Oklahoma Department of Transportation's (ODOT) application for the Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant (MPDG) program. The Hochatown Community Access and Pedestrian Safety Project will expand a section of highway in rural Southeast Oklahoma which has seen substantial growth over the past decade.

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Thank you in advance for your strong consideration of ODOT's application for the MPDG program. Please contact our offices if you need any further assistance as you consider this important proposal.

Sincerely,

COUNTY CLERK
McCURTAIN COUNTY, OKLAHOMA

Thursday, May 2, 2024

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

We are pleased to write this letter in support of the Oklahoma Department of Transportation's (ODOT) application for the Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant (MPDG) program. The Hochatown Community Access and Pedestrian Safety Project will expand a section of highway in rural Southeast Oklahoma which has seen substantial growth over the past decade.

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Thank you in advance for your strong consideration of ODOT's application for the MPDG program. Please contact our offices if you need any further assistance as you consider this important proposal.

Sincerely,

Kyle Henry
Regional Transportation Planer
Southcentral Oklahoma Regional Transportation Planning Organization

KIAMICHI ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT OF OKLAHOMA

A Regional Trust Authority of Local Governments

OFFICERS:

Mike Brittingham
Chairman

Jennifer Woods
1st Vice-Chairperson

Jeremy Bullard
2nd Vice-Chairman

Craig Young
Secretary/Treasurer

PROGRAMS:

Area Agency on Aging (AAA)

Economic Development

Geographic Information System (GIS)

Rural Economic Action Plan (REAP)

Rural Fire Defense

Oklahoma Mobility Management

Regional Transportation Planning Organization (RTPO)

Monday, April 22, 2024

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

KEDDO is pleased to write this letter in support of the Oklahoma Department of transportation's (ODOT) application for the Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant (MPDG) program. The Hochatown Community Access and Pedestrian Safety Project will expand a section of highway in rural Southeast Oklahoma which has seen substantial growth over the past decade.

Hochatown has become a popular attraction for many across Oklahoma, Arkansas, and Texas. Home to Broken Bow Lake and Beavers Bend State Park, along with numerous other attractions and businesses, this area of Southeast Oklahoma has become a hub for tourism and economic development. The growth has led to the community of Hochatown incorporating in November 2022, establishing a local government for the first time which lacks the resources to develop the highway infrastructure. The existing two-lane highway lacks shoulders and turn lanes which has increased the collision rates and restricts movement. The increased development and tourism have displayed the current lack of capacity and the need for major improvements.

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Thank you in advance for your strong consideration of ODOT's application for the MPDG program. Please contact our offices if you need any further assistance as you consider this important proposal.

Sincerely,

Kim Rose

Kim Rose, KEDDO Executive Director

KEDDO ♦ 1002 Hwy 2 North ♦ Wilburton, Oklahoma 74578 ♦ 918-465-2367 ♦ Fax: 918-465-3873

OKLAHOMA BICYCLE SOCIETY

Since 1974

4/25/2024

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

We are pleased to write this letter in support of the Oklahoma Department of Transportation's (ODOT) application for the Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant (MPDG) program. The Hochatown Community Access and Pedestrian Safety Project will expand a section of highway in rural Southeast Oklahoma which has seen substantial growth over the past decade.

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Thank you in advance for your strong consideration of ODOT's application for the MPDG program. Please contact our offices if you need any further assistance as you consider this important proposal.

Sincerely,
Angela Coffman
Oklahoma Bicycle Society President

OKLAHOMA
Tourism & Recreation
123 Robert S Kerr Ave, Ste 1000
Oklahoma City, OK 73102

Friday, April 26, 2024

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

Honorable Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department (OTRD), I am writing to voice our support for the Oklahoma Department of Transportation's (ODOT) application for the Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant (MPDG) program. The Hochatown Community Access and Pedestrian Safety Project will expand a section of highway in rural Southeast Oklahoma which has seen substantial growth over the past decade.

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Thank you in advance for your strong consideration of ODOT's application for the MPDG program.

Best Regards,

Shelley Zumwalt (Apr 26, 2024 15:52 CDT)

Shelley Zumwalt
Secretary of Tourism, Wildlife & Heritage

THE STATE CHAMBER

Thursday, May 2, 2024

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

We are pleased to write this letter in support of the Oklahoma Department of Transportation's (ODOT) application for the Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant (MPDG) program. The Hochatown Community Access and Pedestrian Safety Project will expand a section of highway in rural Southeast Oklahoma which has seen substantial growth over the past decade.

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Thank you in advance for your strong consideration of ODOT's application for the MPDG program. Please contact our offices if you need any further assistance as you consider this important proposal.

Sincerely,

Chad Warmington

Chad Warmington
President & CEO
The State Chamber of Oklahoma

OKLAHOMA TRUCKING ASSOCIATION
The Voice of Trucking
3909 N. Lindsay Ave. • Oklahoma City, OK 73105 • T: (405) 525-9488 F: (405) 525-9490 • www.oktrucking.org

Friday, April 26, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
U.S. Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Honorable Secretary Buttigieg:

As the *"voice of trucking"* in Oklahoma, we represent the unified interest of our member companies that literally have a front row seat to the needs of infrastructure across our state. Having polled our members, the Oklahoma Trucking Association, believes this project meets the desired goals state for the Oklahoma Department of Transportation's (ODOT) application for the Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant (MPDG) program. The Hochatown Community Access and Pedestrian Safety Project will expand a section of highway in rural Southeast Oklahoma which has seen substantial growth over the past decade.

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The Oklahoma Trucking Association strongly supports this project for its vital contribution to the region, state and nation. We urge your support of full funding for the project. Thank you for your consideration of ODOT's application for the MPDG program. Please contact our offices if you need any further assistance as you consider this important proposal.

Sincerely,

Jim Newport
CEO/President
Oklahoma Trucking Association

Mario Archaga *Chairman* | **Bobby Smith** *First Vice Chairman* | **Carmalieta Wells** *Second Vice Chairman* | **Jim Newport** *President & CEO*

ATA | TRUCKING Moves America Forward | OSSC | TMC

OKLAHOMA Transportation

Office of the Executive Director
Tim J. Gatz
200 N.E. 21st Street
Oklahoma City, OK 73105
www.odot.org

April 30, 2024

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

RE: Hochatown Community Access and Pedestrian Safety Project (2025/2026 MPDG)

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of the Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT), I am pleased to present this application for 2025/2026 Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant (MPDG) funds. We take pride in our mission "to provide a safe, economical and effective transportation network for the people, commerce and communities of Oklahoma" and this application has been developed in this spirit.

ODOT is committing $20,000,000 in non-federal funds of future eligible project costs as local match for the project should it be selected for award.

Sincerely,

Tim J. Gatz
Executive Director