



**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**

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BILL ANOATUBBY  
GOVERNOR

February 12, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg, Secretary  
United States Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, Southeast  
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 RAISE program to improve the connectivity and walkability of Oklahoma City's trails system and Horizons District through the construction of a new multiuse pedestrian bridge.

The State of Oklahoma and the City of Oklahoma City have worked diligently in recent years to improve operability and maneuverability across the region. These improvements have facilitated greater ease of travel and access to new arts, tourism, and entertainment attractions. Paired with this movement has been the development of a multimodal trail system throughout Oklahoma City, which now includes nearly 100 miles of trails. With the recent development of the Horizons District on the south side of the Oklahoma River, there exists an opportunity to expand upon and improve the trail system by adding a multimodal pedestrian bridge crossing the Oklahoma River.

A multimodal pedestrian bridge crossing the Oklahoma River would create a vital connection for non-motorists to move from the south side of the river to the north side of the river, where there is currently no connection. Not only will this improvement upgrade the connectiveness of the non-motorist travelers and tourists throughout the city, but it would also allow opportunities for healthcare, education, and employment for the Areas of Persistent Poverty and Historically Disadvantaged Communities that exist on the south side of the Oklahoma River. Completion of this project would allow for the continued growth in the local and national economies and would provide a critical connection to the citizens of south Oklahoma City.

Thank you for your time and attention. It is our hope the ODOT pedestrian bridge project will receive favorable consideration for funding through the RAISE program.

Sincerely,

  
Bill Anoatubby, Governor  
The Chickasaw Nation