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Wednesday, May 22, 2024

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

RE: Active Transportation Infrastructure Investment Program (ATIIP) Grant opportunity for **Bridging the Gap: New Multimodal Connections over the Oklahoma River**

Honorable Secretary Buttigieg:

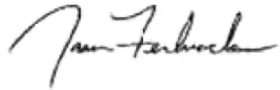
On behalf of EMBARK, Oklahoma City's public transportation and parking agency, please accept this letter of support for the Oklahoma Department of Transportation's (ODOT) application for the ATIIP Grant for Bridging the Gap: New Multimodal Connections over the Oklahoma River. This project is a marquis project in the downtown core of Oklahoma City.

The tremendous community impact that the bridge will offer the Oklahoma City community is perhaps the most unique aspect of this new multimodal bridge project. 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; including the new Riversport Complex which is home to US Olympic Team training, located near the edge of the river.

The scenic Oklahoma River, a 7-mile-long waterway and 13 miles of paved trails runs along the edge of downtown Oklahoma City which has reinvented outdoor recreation in the capital city. The new bridge would provide a safer independent facility to provide non-vehicular access to amenities and the paved trails on both sides of the river. This will improve access to 10 interconnected trails that cover over 80 miles and can take you to almost every point in Oklahoma City including connections to the First Americans Museum and the largely Hispanic Capitol Hill district, a historically disadvantaged community located on the south side of the Oklahoma River.

EMBARK strongly supports the New Multimodal Connections over the Oklahoma River Project in Oklahoma County for its vital contribution to the region, state, and nation. Thank you in advance for your strong consideration of ODOT's application for the Active Transportation Infrastructure Investment Program (ATIIP) Grant. Please contact our offices if you need any further assistance as you consider this important proposal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jason Ferbrache". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "F".

Jason Ferbrache

Director, EMBARK and Administrator, Central Oklahoma Transportation and
Parking Authority