



# SKYLINE

500 SE 15th St  
Oklahoma City, OK 73129

Wednesday, June 5, 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: Multimodal Connections over the Oklahoma River**

Honorable Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of Skyline, a nonprofit in Oklahoma City, I am writing to voice our organization's strong support of 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.

Perhaps the most unique aspect of this project is the tremendous community impact that the multimodal bridge will offer Oklahoma City. 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 US Olympic Team training.

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 for non-vehicular access to amenities on both sides of the river. This will link to 10 interconnected trails that cover over 80 miles and can take you to almost every point in Oklahoma City. This project includes new connections from the First Americans Museum, OKANA resort, and historically disadvantaged Capitol Hill District across the river to the Boathouse and Bricktown Entertainment Districts.

Skyline is a nonprofit organization located on the southeast side of the Oklahoma City metro in one of Oklahoma's largest food deserts. Our mission is to serve those living in the shadows of our community by bridging the gaps in their resources with kindness and respect. Skyline's two biggest programs, the Food Resource Center and Mobile Pantry, provide free groceries to food-insecure Oklahomans. In 2023, Skyline provided service deliveries of free groceries to 58,727 individuals, distributing over one million pounds of food to Oklahomans in need. Many of our patrons walk and bike to reach our facility. Expanded infrastructure across the Oklahoma River would increase safety and access to the Skyline facility, thus helping tens of thousands of struggling Oklahomans reach essential food resources each year.



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Skyline strongly supports the Multimodal Connections over the Oklahoma River Project in Oklahoma City for its vital contribution to the region. We strongly urge your support of full funding for the project. Thank you for your consideration and please feel free to call on us should you have questions or if you require additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Katy Leffel". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Katy" being more prominent than the last name "Leffel".

Katy Leffel  
Chief Executive Officer, Skyline