



# RIVERSPORT™

Friday, November 10, 2023

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

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Michael J. Knopp

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Gene Hopper, Chairman

Mark Beffort

Martha Burger

Kevin Freeman

Rhonda Hooper

Christian Kanady

C. Michael Ming

Nikki Nice

Chad Neimann

Chuck Walworth

Donovan Woods

EX OFFICIO

Gary Marrs

Melinda McMillan-Miller

EMERITUS

Pat Downes

Ronnie Irani

Ann Lacy

Tom McDaniel

Honorable Secretary Buttigieg:

We are pleased to write this letter in support of the Oklahoma Department of Transportation's (ODOT) application for the Bridge Investment Program (BIP). This project would improve the connection of I-35 over the Oklahoma River, ensuring that this critical corridor will continue to serve the state and nation's interstate system.

The RIVERSPORT Foundation is very proactive about removing barriers to accessing the Oklahoma River and the surrounding quality of life amenities that have been developed for the past decade to enrich the community in a wide array of ways. The RIVERSPORT Foundation has worked aggressively to reunite the Oklahoma City community with the Oklahoma River, which previously existed as a blighted "ditch" for generations prior to an innovative community effort to redevelop the waterway and the surrounding riverfront into what is now a world class, differentiating destination for Oklahoma. We look forward to the powerful opportunities to enhance connectivity to the First American's Museum and to attract major international rowing and paddle sports events to the Oklahoma River that were previously not possible with the exiting and deteriorating I-35 bridge.

Interstate 35 in Oklahoma City intersects two other major east-west freight corridors, I-40 and I-44, making the I-35 bridges in Oklahoma City critically located at the crossroads of intercontinental movement, linking the west and east coasts to major urban areas throughout the country. The existing northbound and southbound I-35 bridges that cross the Oklahoma River do not meet the current and future demands of a highly travelled interstate corridor. The two bridges in Oklahoma City see nearly 18,000 trucks per day and ODOT has identified the corridor as a freight bottleneck. Additionally, neighborhoods south of the river lack connections to Central Oklahoma City for access to healthcare, education, and employment.

The project proposes to replace the two existing I-35 bridges over the Oklahoma River, including a ramp bridge connection, and the addition of a pedestrian bridge to provide multimodal access across the river. ODOT has secured commitments from the City of Oklahoma City to contribute to the pedestrian, bike, and scooter bridge. Completion of this project would provide safety for freight and pedestrians, increase capacity for future generations, and allow for continued contributions to the national economy.



U.S. OLYMPIC & PARALYMPIC  
TRAINING SITE  
RIVERSPORT OKLAHOMA CITY

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

Sincerely,

Michael J. Knopp  
Executive Director

800 RIVERSPORT Dr.  
Oklahoma City, OK 73129  
P 405.552.4040