



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

The Chickasaw Nation
Post Office Box 1548 • Ada, Oklahoma 74821
(580) 436-2603 • Fax (580) 436-4287
<http://www.chickasaw.net>

BILL ANOATUBBY
GOVERNOR

February 16, 2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg, Secretary
United State Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

The Chickasaw Nation is pleased to support the Oklahoma Department of Transportation in its efforts to construct a signature bridge spanning the Oklahoma River on Interstate 35 near downtown Oklahoma City. The new span will serve as a visual touchstone the millions of travelers who pass through Oklahoma City at the intersection of Interstates 35 and 40, often referenced as the Crossroads of America.

The Chickasaw Nation recently broke ground on the OKANA Resort and Indoor Waterpark, a \$400 million resort-style destination adjacent to the recently opened First Americans Museum in the area where this bridge would stand. We believe the creation of a signature bridge crossing the Oklahoma River at this location will greatly enhance access to both our resort development and the museum.

As proposed, this bridge will serve as both a tangible and symbolic link between the numerous successful tourism attractions and businesses on the north side of the river, including the OKC Boat House District, Bricktown entertainment area, and Oklahoma City's new convention center, and the historically economically depressed communities along the south bank of the Oklahoma River that our OKANA development seeks to uplift. Additionally, this project will significantly expand cooperation between private, city, state, tribal, and federal partners while serving as an integral part of Oklahoma City transportation infrastructure.

Thank you for your time and attention. It is our sincere hope the project will receive favorable consideration for available federal funding opportunities. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Bill Anoatubby
Bill Anoatubby, Governor
The Chickasaw Nation