

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

February 27, 2024

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

We are pleased to write this letter in support of the Oklahoma Department of Transportation's (ODOT) application for funding through the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) program. This project would improve the connection of I-35 over the Oklahoma River by constructing a separated pedestrian bridge designed to accommodate multimodal transportation, and is a component of the I-35 bridge replacement project.

Along the edge of downtown Oklahoma City runs the scenic Oklahoma River, a 7-mile-long waterway and 13 miles of paved trails that has reinvented outdoor recreation in the state's capital city. Near the I-35 connection over the river is the location of the Riversport Complex that has brought national attention to Oklahoma and is home to a U.S. Olympic and Paralympic training site. Additionally, the First Americans Museum and the OKANA resort development can be found on the south side of the river. The I-35 bridges serve as one of the largest connections along this stretch of river and were built over three decades ago. The current bridges lack the adequate multimodal connections needed to allow for safety and accessibility.

The *Bridging the Gap: New Multimodal Connections over the Oklahoma River* project will connect downtown Oklahoma City to the Capitol Hill District and Horizons District located south of the river. The new bridge would provide a safer, independent facility for bicycle and pedestrian access to the amenities on both sides of the river. Additionally, the new pedestrian bridge would allow neighborhoods south of the river a connection to downtown Oklahoma City for access to healthcare, education, and employment.

Thank you in advance for your strong consideration of ODOT's application for funding through the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) program. Please contact our offices should you need any further assistance as you consider this important proposal.

Sincerely,



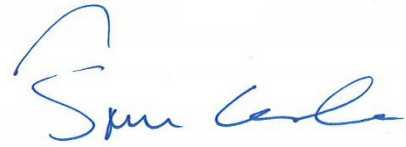
James Lankford
United States Senator



Markwayne Mullin
United States Senator

Handwritten signature of Frank D. Lucas in blue ink.

Frank D. Lucas
Member of Congress

Handwritten signature of Tom Cole in blue ink.

Tom Cole
Member of Congress

Handwritten signature of Stephanie D. Bice in blue ink.

Stephanie Bice
Member of Congress