

September 18, 2022

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
U.S. Secretary of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,


The Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT) is fully supportive of the City of Tulsa's application for Bridge Investment Program (BIP) grant funding to rehabilitate multiple bridges providing mobility across the Arkansas River. This grant will ensure the continued safe operation of these critical crossings that facilitate economic activity and community connectivity for businesses and residents in the City of Tulsa.

These bridges are either at or beyond their useful lives, having been constructed between 1940 and 1984. Like bridges across the country, this package of bridges is in need of significant investment to bring them out of a structurally deficient rating or prevent them from falling into that category. Investing today will prevent greater needed investments in the future, and will avoid costly detours should the bridges further deteriorate and require posting or closure.

These bridges are not only critical connections for the driving public and commercial vehicles, but also provide multimodal connectivity through and around the city. The bridges today carry over 100,000 trips and are projected to carry almost 200,000 by 2052. Furthermore, there are active transportation accommodations on these bridges, tying them into the extensive river trail system along the Arkansas River and supporting healthy living.

This project will support critical mobility, safety, and state of good repair goals for the City of Tulsa and the regional economy. The Oklahoma Department of Transportation strongly supports this application and requests your favorable review.

Sincerely,



Tim J. Gatz
Executive Director