

# APPENDIX B: Financial and Other Letters of Support

## TULSA COMMUNITY RIVER CORRIDOR CONNECTIONS PROJECT



THE CITY OF  
**JENKS**  
OKLAHOMA



U.S. Congressional District OK-01

2020 BUILD Grant Application

U.S. Department of Transportation,  
FY2020 Better Utilizing Investments to  
Leverage Development (BUILD) Application

**BUILD Funds Request: \$19.67 million**





**G.T. Bynum**  
**OFFICE OF THE MAYOR**

May 11, 2020

Honorable Elaine Chao  
Secretary of Transportation  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE  
Washington, DC 20590

RE: BUILD Grant application for Tulsa Community River Corridor Connections Project

Dear Secretary Chao:

The City of Tulsa is pleased to partner with the City of Jenks and INCOG, to submit an application for BUILD grant funding for a project that truly has local and regional significance. The project combines two elements that are high priorities for the City of Tulsa - - infrastructure investments to encourage and support active transportation to promote healthy lifestyles and provide transportation choices and river development.

The Arkansas River is Tulsa's defining physical feature and provides an opportunity to be an economic driver for our future. Tulsa and our regional partners have been focused on river development since the approval of a community-based Arkansas River Corridor Vision Master Plan nearly 15 years ago. We have developed a world class trail system along portions of the corridor, but it is not continuous and does not connect to emerging destinations. We have witnessed the construction and opening of The Gathering Place Tulsa, a \$250M privately funded park, along the river which was gifted to the City of Tulsa and recently named as one of the World's 100 Greatest Places to visit by Time Magazine.

The City's vision currently extends to working with our local partners to fund the construction of a south Tulsa/Jenks low water dam to create another river lake along the Arkansas River. While the low water dam and pedestrian bridge linking both sides of the river will be locally funded, the BUILD grant will improve, extend and connect the river trail system to the pedestrian bridge across the river and add trail amenities providing safe access for pedestrians and cyclists and an improved user experience.

We recognize that our cities future depends on creating great public spaces and providing access to them. This project goes to the heart of USDOT's BUILD grant emphasis on improved access to reliable, safe, and affordable transportation by improving infrastructure condition, addressing public health and safety and promoting regional connectivity.



**G.T. Bynum**  
**OFFICE OF THE MAYOR**

When visitors come to Tulsa, one of the first things they notice is the sense of community and the spirit of working together through collaboration and partnerships that exists within our region. We look forward to partnering with USDOT on this project of local and regional significance.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in green ink, appearing to read 'G.T. Bynum', with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

G.T. Bynum  
Mayor  
City of Tulsa



G.T. Bynum

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

May 11, 2020

Honorable Elaine Chao  
Secretary of Transportation  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE  
Washington, DC 20590

RE: Support for Tulsa Community River Corridor Connections Project

Dear Secretary Chao:

The City of Tulsa is supportive of INCOG's application for USDOT Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Grant funding for the Tulsa Community River Corridor Connections Project. Improved transportation infrastructure and supporting river corridor development are priorities of the City of Tulsa. In an effort to show tangible support for the project the City of Tulsa will commit \$4,085,773 from our voter approved, 2016 Vision Tulsa Capital Improvement Program funds. The funds are available for the improvement of citywide transportation infrastructure and Arkansas River corridor development projects. Paired with concurrent commitments from the City of Jenks and INCOG, these funds represent the match commitment for the proposed \$19,747,456 BUILD grant for the Tulsa Community River Corridor Connections Project. This community-wide supported project is a model of how taxpayer resources can be leveraged with federal funds to support active transportation and provide the necessary infrastructure while creating great spaces for residents and encourage continued investment along our river corridor.

In addition to a financial contribution, the city will also provide in-kind support in the form of personnel time. We will collaborate with INCOG, the project manager, to complete the Connections Project in a timely and efficient manner. The City of Tulsa has extensive experience with federal transportation grants and will secure needed design services and let the construction projects within the City of Tulsa. Once completed, the City of Tulsa will also pay its share of the operating and maintenance costs of the project either directly or through affiliated entities such as the Tulsa River Parks Authority.

Please accept this letter of support and financial commitment from the City of Tulsa for INCOG's Tulsa Community River Corridor Connections Project. We are eager to start this project and look forward to its completion.

Best regards,

Jack Blair  
Chief of Staff

175 E. 2<sup>nd</sup> St. • Tulsa, OK 74103 • Office 918.596.7411 • Fax 918.596.9010

Email: [Mayor@cityoftulsa.org](mailto:Mayor@cityoftulsa.org)

[www.cityoftulsa.org](http://www.cityoftulsa.org)





## CITY OF JENKS

211 NORTH ELM STREET • P.O. BOX 2007  
JENKS, OKLAHOMA 74037-2007  
PHONE (918) 299-5883 • FAX (918) 299-4489

May 11, 2020  
Honorable Elaine Chao  
Secretary of Transportation  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE  
Washington, DC 20590

RE: Support for Tulsa Community River Corridor Connections Project BUILD Grant Application

Dear Secretary Chao,

We are thrilled to partner with the Indian Nations Council of Governments (INCOG), our regions Metropolitan Planning Organization, and other regional stakeholders on the Tulsa Community River Corridor Connections Project to improve and extend the regions trail system and connect more people to commercial and entertainment districts in Jenks and Tulsa

The City of Jenks will commit \$2,830,045 of local funding which was approved by Jenks voters in 2016 through our Vision Jenks Capital Improvement Program to the project. Paired with the commitment of funds by the City of Tulsa and INCOG, these funds represent the match for the proposed \$19,747,456 BUILD grant for the Tulsa Community River Corridor Connections BUILD Project.

We will work closely with INCOG and the other project partners to complete the River Corridor Connections Project in an expeditious manner. The City of Jenks has significant experience with federal transportation grants and we will secure needed design services and let the construction projects within the City of Jenks. Once completed, the City of Jenks will maintain the trail and trail amenities.

Please accept this letter of support and financial commitment from the City of Jenks for INCOG's Tulsa Community River Corridor Connections Project. Again, the City of Jenks is pleased to cosponsor this application with the City of Tulsa as this truly is a project of local regional significance. We look forward to starting this project and the positive impact it will have for our residents and visitors when it is completed.

Sincerely,

Robert Lee, Mayor  
City of Jenks



The Honorable Elaine L. Chao  
Office of the Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

RE: Tulsa Community River Corridor Connections Project BUILD Grant Application

Dear Secretary Chao:

The Indian Nations Council of Governments (INCOG, the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Tulsa area, is pleased to submit this application for the Tulsa Community River Corridor Connections Project (the project) as part of the Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) program. INCOG's request is for \$19,747,456 in BUILD funding that will supplement the local match funding commitment of \$6,919,818, and \$1,000,000 in other federal finding for a total project cost of \$27,663,274. Local funds have been committed from both the City of Tulsa, City of Jenks from 2016 voter approved Vision project funding.

INCOG, the City of Tulsa, the City of Jenks, and Tulsa County are partnering to provide an enhanced multi-modal trail system along the east and west banks of the Arkansas River to improve safety and provide connections throughout the Tulsa community, benefiting both urban and rural residents. The project will make significant repairs and upgrades to the trails along the existing and future planned regional destinations on both east and west banks along the Arkansas River. The project connects specifically the Turkey Mountain Urban Wilderness Area with a locally funded south Tulsa/Jenks pedestrian bridge and low water dam. The project will separate bicycles and pedestrians from vehicular traffic to provide safe travel conditions. The project will connect Tulsa and Jenks communities on both banks of the river with a reliable, safe, and resilient active transportation network.

The project is an investment that is locally sustained, improving access to jobs in two of the preeminent communities in Oklahoma, providing an opportunity for all residents to thrive in a difficult economic climate. It is a high priority for INCOG, and the project is ready for implementation based on wide ranging and long-standing planning and design studies. The federal support for this multi-jurisdictional project of local and regional significance will affirm shared commitment to building communities through partnership. We believe the project application makes a strong case for improving safety, access to jobs, a state of good repair, sustainability and adds to the quality of life in an exemplary manner. The project is derived from the Connected 2045: Regional Transportation Plan, the Regional Bicycle/Pedestrian Plan, and the Arkansas River Corridor Master Plans.



INCOG is committed to include the project within the FFY 2020-23 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) when BUILD funding is secured.

We appreciate your consideration of INCOG's Tulsa Community River Corridor Connections project BUILD grant proposal. Should you have any question regarding this project, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rich Brierre". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Rich" and last name "Brierre" clearly distinguishable.

Rich Brierre  
INCOG Executive Director



## Board of County Commissioners

Tulsa County Administration Bldg.  
500 South Denver  
Tulsa, Oklahoma 74103-3832  
918.596.5015

**KAREN KEITH**  
DISTRICT 2

May 4, 2020

Honorable Elaine Chao  
Secretary of Transportation  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao,

I am enthusiastic about INCOG's BUILD grant and the possibility of pushing our multi-use trail system further south on both the east and west sides of the river. Even though the location of the proposed trail system is located in the Cities of Jenks and Tulsa, the project will benefit the entirety of Tulsa County and in the region. It will continue to connect suburbs to each other and to the City of Tulsa. These connections will allow our region to grow in innovative ways by providing safe access to active transportation.

Tulsa County has been a part of the concept of this plan since 2004, when the first Arkansas River Corridor Plan was developed. As County Commissioner, I supported the TAP application that Tulsa County secured to create a conceptual plan of the multi-use trail system from Turkey Mountain in Tulsa to Jenks River Walk. Now that this plan is complete, I am looking forward to seeing it come into fruition through the Tulsa Community River Corridor Connections Project.

In addition, I initiated conversations with the Corp of Engineers to construct the trail on top of a two-mile stretch of the levee system. The Corp is excited about this project because it improves the levee by creating a hard surface, reduces erosion and enhances maintenance. This is important as this two-mile section of our levee system protects areas of west Tulsa, including important Public Works infrastructure from flooding. The importance of the levee system cannot be underestimated as we are all too familiar with major flooding in Tulsa County that occurred along the Arkansas River last year.

Once this project is constructed and complete, Tulsa County will maintain sections of the trail that are built on top of the levee and in the levee easement. I hope USDOT partners with the INCOG to move the project forward. Please let me know if I can be of further assistance.

Regards,

Karen Keith  
Tulsa County Commissioner, District 2





## *Muscogee (CREEK) Nation*

*Executive Office*

May 4, 2020

Honorable Elaine Chao  
Secretary of Transportation  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE  
Washington, DC 20590

RE: Tulsa Community River Corridor Connections Project BUILD Application

Dear Secretary Chao,

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation (MCN) is a self-governed Native American tribal government whose tribal boundaries encompasses 7,200 square miles in eleven counties in Oklahoma including the southern portion of the City of Tulsa and the City of Jenks. We are one of the historic five Civilized Tribes and the fourth largest tribe in the U.S. with 86,100 citizens. Because of our presence in the Tulsa metropolitan area region, we have a history of working in tandem with the Cities of Tulsa and Jenks to complete projects that enhance our region, and thus enhances the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.

An example of one of these projects is when MCN realigned an older section of Tulsa River Parks trails from in front River Spirit Casino and Resort to behind it. The original multi-use trail paralleled Riverside Parkway, a high speed, multi-lane arterial, and crossed three major driveways of MCN property. It was a dangerous section of trail where there were multiple conflicts between vehicles, bikes and pedestrians with some crashes requiring the medical attention of first responders. MCN paid for the construction of a new one-mile section of the trail to a location along the Arkansas river. This accomplished two objectives, the first completely eliminating conflicts between motorized vehicles and trail users, and the second was to upgrade the trail to the adopted regional dual trail standard. In addition, the MCN pays for all trail operating and maintenance expenses associated with the trail on our property. Another positive outcome of rerouting the trail is that we have seen an increase in the number of trail users and patrons arriving via bicycle and spending money at our complex's pool and restaurant area.

The above example shows why our Nation is in full support of INCOG's Tulsa Community River Corridor Connections Project, and why we are eager to collaborate with the Cities of Jenks and Tulsa on its implementation. A main objective of the proposed project is to increase alternative transportation connections for the region. Currently, the Arkansas River is a barrier that prohibits pedestrians and people on bikes from connecting to our entertainment center on the east bank to other existing and planned destinations on the west bank. The proposed 8.75 miles of trail, together with the already locally funded low water dam and pedestrian bridge by the Cities of Jenks and Tulsa will solve the problem of limited connections across the river and lack of safe access to other nearby locations.

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation understands and supports the increased connections and economic benefits of INCOG's Tulsa Community River Corridor Connection Project will bring to our region, and we kindly request USDOT to support this project as well.

Regards,

*David W Hill*

David Hill

Principal Chief

Muscogee (Creek) Nation

*Classic Line*





Office of the Executive Director

**Tim J. Gatz**

200 NE 21<sup>st</sup> St.

Oklahoma City, OK 73105

(405) 522-1800

May 11, 2020

Honorable Elaine Chao  
Secretary of Transportation  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao,

The Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT) is pleased to send this letter in support of the application by the Indian Nations Council of Governments (INCOG) for the Tulsa Community River Corridor Connections Project. We are confident INCOG has the capacity and foresight to manage this project from beginning to end in a timely and efficient manner.

The core focus of the Connections Project is to construct needed multi-use trails to fill gaps that surround a growing, economically competitive area which is in need of safe alternative transportation options. Portions of this project include relocating a highly used pedestrian crossing away from a busy city street and turnpike intersection to better protect both trail users and nearby traffic.

Our staff is experienced in expediting environmental reviews through our relationships with the Federal Highway Administration Division Office. ODOT will commit to completing the environmental review for the project to enable the cities of Jenks and Tulsa to let the project in a timely manner.

We look forward to partnering with INCOG and the USDOT on this BUILD project. Should you have any questions regarding this letter of support, please do not hesitate to contact us. Thank you again for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tim J. Gatz", written in a cursive style.

Tim J. Gatz  
Secretary of Transportation  
Executive Director

*"The mission of the Oklahoma Department of Transportation is to provide a safe, economical, and effective transportation network for the people, commerce and communities of Oklahoma."*

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

**Tim J. Gatz**  
Executive Director  
Secretary of Transportation

**Governor Kevin J. Stitt**  
Member Ex-Officio



# OKLAHOMA Turnpike Authority

May 5, 2020

Honorable Elaine Chao  
Secretary of Transportation  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao,

The Oklahoma Turnpike Authority (OTA) is pleased to submit a letter of support and partnership for INCOG's Tulsa Community River Corridor Connections Project. This project elevates the safety of the transportation network by building or enhancing 8.75 miles of multi-use trails that are separated from major roadways. Separating active transportation from high speed and high-volume traffic will decrease the rate of bicycle and pedestrian crashes and fatality rates.

The Turnpike Authority has extensive experience working with INCOG and its partners on projects that involve OTA's right-of-way adjacent to the Creek Turnpike and Gilcrease Expressway within Tulsa's Urbanized Transportation Area. INCOG's proposed BUILD project is of particular value because it will construct a new trail away from a congested intersection at the Creek Turnpike entrance and exit ramps and Riverside Parkway, a major regional arterial. The new multi-use trail will be located under the elevated structures of OTA's Creek Turnpike bridges on both the east and west banks of the river. Currently, trail users have to cross Riverside Parkway and use a sidewalk that is next to the on and off ramps of the turnpike. In addition, this route crosses several driveways of busy commercial centers and a gas station/convenience store where vehicles constantly conflict with pedestrians and bicycles.

OTA will partner with INCOG for this project by approving a use agreement for the trail and additional trail amenities such as trailhead parking on OTA's right-of-way. This partnership will expedite the project by removing the need to purchase additional ROW for these purposes in the project area. We are eager to collaborate with INCOG, the City of Tulsa, the City of Jenks, the Muskogee Creek Nation and River Parks Authority and urge USDOT to do so as well by approving the proposed BUILD project.

Sincerely,

Joe Echelle  
Assistant Executive Director  
Maintenance, Engineering & Construction  
Oklahoma Turnpike Authority

JAMES M. INHOFE  
OKLAHOMA

WASHINGTON OFFICE  
205 RUSSELL SENATE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3603  
(202) 224-4721

TULSA OFFICE  
1924 SOUTH UTICA, SUITE 530  
TULSA, OK 74104  
(918) 748-5111

OKLAHOMA CITY OFFICE  
3817 NORTHWEST EXPRESSWAY, SUITE 780  
OKLAHOMA CITY, OK 73112  
(405) 208-8841

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3603

COMMITTEES:  
ARMED SERVICES  
CHAIRMAN

ENVIRONMENT AND  
PUBLIC WORKS

SMALL BUSINESS AND  
ENTREPRENEURSHIP

INTELLIGENCE  
EX OFFICIO

May 8, 2020

The Honorable Elaine Chao  
Secretary  
Department of Transportation  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE  
Washington, DC 20590

## RE: BUILD grant application for Tulsa Community River Corridor Connections Project

Dear Secretary Chao:

I write in strong support for the Indian Nations Council of Governments' (INCOG) Tulsa Community River Corridor Connections Project. This multi-jurisdictional, community supported project enhances transportation infrastructure, improves safety and increases connectivity along the river corridor in the Tulsa region and truly will have a significant local and regional impact.

INCOG is the Metropolitan Planning Organization for Transportation Planning in the Tulsa Area and has a long history of working with local communities and tribal governments to create partnerships to address community needs. INCOG's corridor project will improve connections from neighborhoods to businesses as well as major destinations in the south Tulsa/Jenks area that are along the river including the Oklahoma Aquarium in Jenks and the Turkey Mountain Urban Wilderness in Tulsa. The river corridor is a potential economic driver that has yet to see its full potential, and this project will accelerate this economic growth. Already, the City of Jenks is moving dirt on a new outlet mall. Even during the COVID-19 outbreak, they continue to push forward with construction, knowing that the outdoor concept will create a destination for the region.

This project addresses safety and state of good repair issues. With the voter-approved matching funds available from Tulsa and Jenks and the wide community support for this project, I offer my support of INCOG's application for a BUILD grant to move this project forward. Please contact Dan Hillenbrand in my office at [Dan\\_Hillenbrand@inhofe.senate.gov](mailto:Dan_Hillenbrand@inhofe.senate.gov) or (202) 224-2302 if you need any further assistance.

Sincerely,



James M. Inhofe  
United States Senator



**Rep. Lonnie Sims,**  
**District 68**  
Proudly serving:  
Tulsa & Creek County

**Committee Member:**  
County & Municipal Government  
(Vice-Chairman)  
A&B Transportation  
Insurance  
Public Health

April 29, 2020

Honorable Elaine Chao  
Secretary of Transportation  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao,

For fifteen years, I have proudly been a dedicated public servant in the Jenks Community, serving as a Planning Commissioner, City Councilman and Mayor. I feel fortunate to now serve a broader constituency in the Oklahoma State Legislature and push for positive changes. In addition to Jenks, I now proudly represent the municipalities of Tulsa, Sand Springs, Oakhurst, Glenpool and Sapulpa. Supporting INCOG's Tulsa Community River Corridor Connections Project is one of those positive changes.

This community supported project furthers my vision, which is to make Jenks and the surrounding communities the best place to raise a family. Expanding the connections from Turkey Mountain Urban Wilderness to Jenks' River Walk, the Oklahoma Aquarium, Main Street Jenks and the new outlet mall, which is under construction, will be a game changer for the community of Jenks. The new multi-use trail will allow families who live off of the new trail the ability to ride a bike to these economic and entertainment drivers.

In addition, due to the COVID-19 virus, the citizens of our region have shown that there is high demand for additional trail mileage. Like other regions, the usage of our regional trail system has increased many-fold, and I foresee this momentum continuing even when life goes back to "normal."

I look forward to seeing this project realized, and I hope USDOT understands the importance our trail system has on the entire region, not just those cities whose borders touch the river corridor. Again, I whole heartedly support INCOG's grant application, and I urge favorable consideration of this important regional project.

Regards,



Rep. Lonnie Sims  
District 68

State Capitol Building, 2300 N. Lincoln Blvd., Oklahoma City, OK 73105-4805  
(405)557-7340 Office  
Lonnie.sims@okhouse.gov



April 23, 2020

2424 East 21<sup>st</sup> Street  
Suite 300  
Tulsa, Oklahoma  
74114

918-596-2001

Fax 918-596-2004

[www.riverparks.org](http://www.riverparks.org)

Honorable Elaine Chao  
Secretary of Transportation  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE  
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

River Parks Authority's mission is, "*To enhance community life through stewardship of parks and public spaces along the Arkansas River.*" One of the ways we do this is by maintaining and activating 26 miles of paved multi-use trails along the Arkansas River within the Tulsa Metro Area. The main River Parks' trail serves as a north/south backbone for alternative transportation and recreational connections within the region.

Board of Trustees

Marvin Jones  
Chair

Derek Martin  
Vice Chair

Stephen Fater  
Treasurer

Sharon King Davis

David Phillips

Stuart Price

Darton Zink

Matt Meyer  
Executive Director

River Parks Authority is in full support INCOG's BUILD grant as this aligns with both our mission and vision. We have already taken the steps to acquire a permit from the Corps of Engineers to improve a section of trail from the River Spirit Casino south to 101<sup>st</sup> & Riverside that is in poor condition as defined in the INCOG application. This portion of trail does not meet our standards of a safe, dual-trail system that can accommodate our users with minimal conflicts. In addition, our intention is to partner with both the Cities of Tulsa and Jenks to maintain the 8.75 miles of new dual trail system once construction is complete.

I kindly request that USDOT partners with INCOG to move the Tulsa Community River Corridor Connection project forward. Please let me know if I can be of further assistance.

Regards,

Matt Meyer  
Executive Director  
River Parks Authority  
Tulsa, OK

*Creating a scene on Tulsa's riverfront since 1974*



**TULSA REGIONAL CHAMBER**

May 5, 2020

Honorable Elaine Chao  
Secretary of Transportation  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

We are most pleased to submit a letter of support for the **Tulsa Community River Corridor Connections Project**. This project submitted by INCOG, our Regional Metropolitan Planning Organization and co-sponsored by Tulsa, Jenks, and the Muscogee Creek Nation exemplifies the can-do spirit and the value of regional partnerships that the Tulsa area is known for. It offers regional significance in-terms of economic development, safety, and quality of life for urban and rural residents within the Tulsa metropolitan region of Northeastern Oklahoma.

**Tulsa Community River Corridor Connections Project** investments represent a regionally significant and transformative project that addresses one of our region's key economic development barriers: safe transportation. This project constructs safe, off-street bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure that connect area residents to jobs, services, and regionally significant destinations. Included in these are 3 of the 4 largest tourism destinations in the Tulsa region: The Oklahoma Aquarium, Turkey Mountain Urban Wilderness and the nearby Gathering Place Tulsa. Combined, these destinations greatly contribute to our local economy through jobs and tourism. By improving access for all modes of travel to and between these locations, as well as improving facilities and public access to the Arkansas River flowing through our region, we are able to build upon our local and region assets and better position our economic future for Northeastern Oklahoma.

This project, and associated partnerships, are creating safe and efficient transportation options for our residents to access the many regional tourism and quality of life destinations that fuel our economy. As a regional chamber of commerce, we view increased safe and accessible transportation as a key economic development strategy to improve our citizens' access to job opportunities and strengthen our community's health and quality of life. The absence of safe and connected transportation opportunities has been a persistent barrier





**TULSA REGIONAL CHAMBER**

for our citizens: so much so that we have made increased alternative transportation options a goal of our economic development strategy, Tulsa's Future III, and our Workforce Analysis Project.

We fully support the City of Tulsa and the City of Jenks in their effort to improve safety, economic development, and quality of life in Northeastern Oklahoma through the **Tulsa Community River Corridor Connections Project**. We look forward to USDOT partnering with our region to make this project a reality.

Sincerely,



Michael S. Neal, CCE, CCD, HLM  
President & Chief Executive Officer  
Tulsa Regional Chamber

May 4, 2020

Honorable Elaine Chao  
Secretary of Transportation  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

As the Chamber of Commerce for Jenks, OK, we are delighted to submit a letter of support for the **Tulsa Community River Corridor Connections Project**. This project is a natural fit for the *Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development* (BUILD) Grant program, in that it is a multi-jurisdictional transportation project that will have regional significance in-terms of economic development, safety, and quality of life for residents within the Tulsa metropolitan region.

Our vision is to be the driving force for business growth and enhanced quality of life for the Jenks community. We believe the **Tulsa Community River Corridor Connections Project** embodies this vision by:

- (1) creating safe, off-street transportation options between our local businesses, residents, and regional destinations
- (2) improving facilities along the Arkansas River, a natural amenity we seek to enjoy and better utilize but which also serves as an existing transportation barrier between workers and jobs
- (3) improving the quality of life of our citizens as we live, work, and play in the many regional destinations that exist along the river and are directly affected by the jobs and amenities that can be facilitated by this project

The Jenks Chamber of Commerce and our community has supported these improvements financially with the passage of Vision for Jenks 2025 sales tax approved by the voters in April of 2016. This will help fund the city's match of the BUILD grant project improvements, as well as a separate, locally funded Jenks/south Tulsa pedestrian bridge and low water dam project.

We fully support the City of Jenks and the City of Tulsa in their effort to improve safety, economic development, and quality of life in Northeastern Oklahoma through the **Tulsa Community River Corridor Connections Project**. We hope USDOT will recognize the need and benefit the project offers and partner with our region to move this project forward.

Sincerely,



Josh Driskell, President  
Jenks Chamber of Commerce

May 1, 2020

Honorable Elaine Chao  
Secretary of Transportation  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

Jenks Public Schools is pleased to submit a letter of support for the **Tulsa Community River Corridor Connections Project**. Transportation is central barrier for many of our students to safely and consistently attend classes and events. This project symbolizes the focus of the Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Grant program as transportation project that has regional significance in-terms of safety and quality of life for our students and community members within the Jenks school district, Jenks community and the greater Tulsa region.

Jenks Public Schools is committed to advocating for a community that has accessible transportation for all its students, faculty, and staff. We believe this project greatly improves connection between our schools and students living within and near the project area. Most of Jenks schools campuses are within a half-mile of the multiuse path project area including Jenks High School, Jenks Freshmen Academy, and Jenks Middle School. There are over 3,600 students at the high school and freshmen campus alone. The Jenks school district spans both sides of the Arkansas River, leading to a great need for safe alternative transportation facilities that serve students walking and on bicycles.

The **Tulsa Community River Corridor Connections Project** components are essential for our students to access their traditional school campuses, concurrent enrollment programs at the other learning institutions, extracurricular school activities, and after school jobs at businesses in the Tulsa metropolitan area.

We fully support the City of Jenks and the City of Tulsa in their effort to create a more livable, walkable, and economically viable region through this investment. We hope USDOT will recognize our need of safe transportation facilities and partner with our region to make this project a reality.

Sincerely,

Stacey Butterfield, Ed.D.  
Superintendent  
Jenks Public Schools





*America's most generous city®*

April 27, 2020

Honorable Elaine Chao  
Secretary of Transportation  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Madame Secretary:

Tulsa Community Foundation (TCF) is pleased to submit a letter of support for the Tulsa Community River Corridor Connections project. TCF is a charitable foundation focused on Tulsa-area initiatives that improve the wellbeing and livelihood of area residents. Improving the livability, safety and equity for Tulsans and the region are initiatives that TCF supports qualitatively and financially.

In 2007, when River Parks Authority's multi-use trails were enhanced to a safer dual-trail system, TCF was instrumental in working with River Parks to fund the entire project. TCF will continue to partner with River Parks Authority and support the Cities of Jenks and Tulsa as they further expand the trail system.

Tulsa is America's Most Generous City®, which is demonstrated every day by the quantity of community-wide support provided, not just from government entities, but from private businesses, nonprofits and advocacy groups. My request and plea is for USDOT to partner with INCOG to fund this project.

Please let me know if TCF's staff or I can be of any further assistance as you consider this exceptional project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Phil Lakin, Jr.' with a stylized flourish at the end.

Phil Lakin, Jr.  
Chief Executive Officer

# THIS MACHINE



April 23, 2020

Honorable Elaine Chao  
Secretary of Transportation  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

This Machine, Tulsa's nonprofit bike share, is pleased to submit a letter of support for the Tulsa Community River Corridor Connections Project. The addition of 8.75 miles of trail would be an asset to our growing fleet. Also, this project allows us to continue our mission of providing a high quality, convenient and affordable method of transportation that connects people to where they live, work and play.

Tulsa Bike Share sees this community supported project as changing the way residents who live near the newly constructed trail system would travel to nearby destinations. Instead of getting in a car to travel 1 or 2 miles, they can hop on a bike and feel safe as there would be a clear separation from fast moving vehicles.

Currently, the majority of our ridership is within Downtown Tulsa and along River Parks where we have stations. With the addition of the trail connections to the new Jenks Mall on the west side and to the shopping centers in South Tulsa on the east side, I foresee bike share increasing its foot print with additional bike stations and be able to serve a greater population of the Tulsa region.

Thank you for your time and consideration for INCOG's grant for the Tulsa Community River Corridor Connection Project.

Regards,

Katie Sawicki  
Executive Director  
This Machine Tulsa Bike Share  
Tulsa, OK

THE WILLIAM K. WARREN FOUNDATION

THOMAS E. COOPER  
PRESIDENT

April 28, 2020

Honorable Elaine Chao  
Secretary of Transportation  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

The William K. Warren Foundation is eager to give its support to INCOG's Tulsa Community River Corridor Connections Project. The Foundation was established in 1945 to provide the finest possible medical care available to all patients utilizing Saint Francis Health System and to this end, it annually supports various medical programs and healthy initiatives. Supporting INCOG's BUILD grant application to expand of our regional multi-use trail system is one of those projects.

We support healthy initiatives both in and out of the clinic, and we have been creating healthy opportunities for families since our founding. In 2007, we launched the first bike share in the United States, Tulsa Townies, along an 11-mile stretch of Tulsa River Parks. It was a decision by our board to allow people to rent the Tulsa Townies free of charge because our Foundation believes that creating easy choices for families to stay healthy will benefit the entire Tulsa region. The expansion of the trail system will allow people to ride a bicycle or walk even greater lengths.

Lastly, The William K. Warren Foundation looks for opportunities to recognize the Tulsa region and differentiate it from other communities. Once the proposed project, which includes 8.75 miles of trail, a new pedestrian bridge over Vensel Creek and river access, is complete, it will create more healthy spaces to walk, run or ride a bike and will make the Tulsa/Jenks region standout. We see this as a healthy benefit to our community and hope that USDOT also sees the potential this project has for our region.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tom".



2 West Second Street ■ Suite 800 ■ Tulsa, OK 74103

April 29, 2020

Honorable Elaine Chao  
Secretary of Transportation  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

Tulsa's Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) is a group of citizen advocates who promote Engineering, Education, Enforcement, Evaluation and Planning (the 5 E's) concepts pertaining specifically to bicycle and pedestrian modes, and to provide input into the planning processes at the City of Tulsa.

In 2014 when INCOG was developing the GO Plan, the regional bicycle/pedestrian masterplan, members of BPAC were on the Steering Committee, providing input for safer connections in the Tulsa region. We are excited to see this plan moving forward and support INCOG's application for the Tulsa Community River Corridor Connections Project.

Key components of this plan that align with our goal of creating an improved environment for bicycles and pedestrians are safety and increased connectivity. Currently, if a person wanted to ride a bike or walk from Turkey Mountain Urban Wilderness to the River Walk in Jenks or the Oklahoma Aquarium, they would have to use Elwood St. This is a two-lane, 45 mph road with no shoulder and major sidewalk gaps. The proposed three-mile multi-use trail section from Turkey Mountain to Jenks would alleviate this problem. Also, the addition of trail on the east side of the river will connect more neighborhoods to the shops in south Tulsa. This will decrease the percentage of dependence upon motorized vehicles for trips that are 2 miles or less from the neighborhoods to the shopping centers.

As bicycle and pedestrian advocacy group for the region, we ask USDOT to award INCOG's BUILD grant application for the Tulsa Community River Corridor Connections Project.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mitch Drummond", is written over the typed name.

Mitch Drummond





**t-town**bicycles

1660 East 71st St. – Tulsa, OK 74136

April 29, 2020

Honorable Elaine Chao  
Secretary of Transportation  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

My name is Jason Broadaway, and I represent T-Town Bicycles, a locally owned bicycle retailer that operates two locations in Tulsa, OK. I'm writing today to inform you that INCOG's BUILD grant project has the full support of our company.

Over the past couple of years, we have seen an increased sale in the number of commuter and electric bikes, and there is demand in the Tulsa area for bicycle infrastructure. In addition to commuter bikes, we have also seen a ten-fold increase over the past decade of women who come into our stores wanting to purchase bikes for commuting, fitness, and general transportation. We partner with the all-women's clubs, such as the Tulsa Tough Divas and Girls Gone Pedalin', and host clinics to teach women how to maintain their bikes and operate them safely on the trails and roads. We are vested in the Tulsa community and are excited about projects that will increase the regional multi-use trail corridors.

One of our shop locations is located along the Joe Creek Trail in Tulsa, which connects directly to the proposed additional river corridor trail system. Our desire is to see the multi-use trail system continue to expand in order for more people from ages 8 to 80 be able to ride a bike for fun, health and transportation. We encourage USDOT to award the Tulsa Community River Corridor Connections Project.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jason Broadaway', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Jason Broadaway  
T-Town Bicycles, Inc  
General Manager  
Tulsa, OK



## TULSA URBAN WILDERNESS COALITION

April 23, 2020  
Honorable Elaine Chao  
Secretary of Transportation  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

Tulsa Urban Wilderness Coalition is a grass-roots 501(c)3 organization originally formed to protect Turkey Mountain from becoming the location of an outlet mall. Since then, we have worked with stakeholders such as landowners, private organizations and government entities to maintain our local wild spaces.

We support the Tulsa Community River Corridor Connections project because it will increase the opportunity for citizens of the region to enjoy the outdoors and experience our natural environment. In addition, connecting Turkey Mountain to Jenks on the west side by expansion of a multi-use trail promotes a more equitable experience as this would allow families to safely ride their bikes to Turkey Mountain rather than drive to the urban wilderness.

As an advocacy group for the Tulsa region that promotes sustainability and the ability for all to have the opportunity to enjoy our outdoor spaces, we urge USDOT to work with INCOG to complete and improve the 8.75 miles of multi-use trails and amenities as outlined in their BUILD grant application.

Regards,

Eric Doswell  
President  
Tulsa Urban Wilderness Coalition



**KINGS LANDING**  
WWW.KINGSLANDINGTULSA.COM

**KINGSPORTE VILLAGE**  
WWW.KINGSPORTEVILLAGE.COM

**KING DAVIS INVESTMENTS**  
WWW.KINGDAVISHOUSE.COM

4662 East 59th Street • Tulsa, Oklahoma 74135 • (918) 496-2865 • Fax (918) 496-0290

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April 29, 2020

Honorable Elaine Chao  
Secretary of Transportation  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao,

I am proud to be a fourth generation Tulsan and to have been able to raise my family in this wonderful and generous city. I am a local developer and a partner of King Investments which owns and operates Kings Pointe Village and Kings Landing Shopping Centers, two major retail hubs for south Tulsa and its adjacent suburbs.

INCOG's Tulsa Community River Corridor Connections Project will positively affect the local and national retailers in the Kings Landing Shopping Center due to the additional regional trail connections this project will create to the center. Both the City of Tulsa and INCOG have been in communication with me regarding the plans of the new multi-use trail system since its conception due to its proximity to a King Investments property, and as a private developer, I fully support this project.

In addition to the added connections, I support the safety aspect of the project. The current route does become quite dangerous as pedestrians/cyclists/runners must cross intersections of intense traffic, entering and exiting traffic to a bridge over the river plus an exit from a Turnpike which puts many people in harms way. The plans for INCOG's corridor connections project has been projected for years, this will safely reroute behind the shops, next to the river. Even though the trail is rerouted, it will still provide access to the stores and restaurants, but in a manner that is much safer and will reduce contact with automobiles.

ODOT should choose to invest in the Tulsa region because our community citizens have invested in River Development. Tulsa is led by its citizens, and how much we care about our community is reflective in its initiatives. The Tulsa Community River Corridor Connections Project is one of these initiatives.

Regards,

  
Sharon King Davis



**KINGS LANDING**  
WWW.KINGSLANDINGTULSA.COM

**KINGSPORTE VILLAGE**  
WWW.KINGSPORTEVILLAGE.COM

**KING DAVIS INVESTMENTS**  
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April 29, 2020

Honorable Elaine Chao  
Secretary of Transportation  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE  
Washington, DC 20590

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Regards,

  
Sharon King Davis