

Tulsa-Jenks Multi-Modal Safety Project

Appendix C:
Letters of Support



Submitted by The Indian Nations Council of Governments
and the Muscogee Nation

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 8, 2022

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I am pleased to submit this letter in support of the Indian Nations Council of Governments' (INCOG) application for a Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant for its Tulsa-Jenks Multi-Modal Safety Project: Connecting Communities for Equity and Safety. This multi-jurisdictional, community-supported project enhances transportation infrastructure, improves safety, and increases connectivity along the Arkansas River corridor in the Tulsa region, and 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 Multi-Modal Safety Project will improve connections from neighborhoods to businesses as well as major destinations in south Tulsa and Jenks that are along the Arkansas River, including the Jenks Riverwalk Crossing and the Turkey Mountain Urban Wilderness in Tulsa.

The Arkansas River is the region's defining physical feature, however, for many years, the river was seen as a hindrance and not as an asset. With the opening of a pedestrian bridge and subsequent construction of the Zink dam when I was Mayor of Tulsa, the community began to turn its attention to the river in a positive way and recognize the potential that it offered.

This project continues to build on those earlier efforts and addresses the Department's priorities of safety, quality of life, mobility and community connectivity, and state of good repair. With the voter-approved matching funds provided by Tulsa and Jenks and the wide community support for the project, I offer my strong support for INCOG's RAISE application. Please contact Victor Sarmiento in my office at victor_sarmiento@inchofe.senate.gov if you need further assistance as you consider this application.

Sincerely,



James M. Inhofe
United State Senator

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-3601

April 12, 2022

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

Secretary Buttigieg,

I am excited to submit this letter of support for the Indian Nations Council of Governments' (INCOG) and Muscogee Nation's RAISE application for the Tulsa-Jenks Multi-Modal Safety Project: Connecting Communities for Equity and Safety. I am confident this project will bring increased economic development to this area of Tulsa. As an entrepreneur, I understand the importance of seeking a business location where there is a destination for people to gather and congregate. The construction of 7.75 miles of new multi-use trail in tandem with the locally funded Tulsa/Jenks low water dam and pedestrian bridge will create a regional destination and public space.

Since COVID-19 and the increased number of remote workers, people on both east and west coasts are seeking out the Midwest to find a new place to live where it is less crowded, and the cost of living is more affordable. The Tulsa-Jenks Multi-Modal Safety Project will help the Tulsa region be more competitive by creating a destination for all families to enjoy. In addition, the project is supported by voters of both Jenks and Tulsa who have approved funding for this project in the 2016 Vision tax package following many public meetings.

The project also addresses safety by creating a public right-of-way for all ages and abilities. The City of Tulsa has been at the forefront in the region for active transportation by implementing approximately 45 lane miles of new on-street bicycle infrastructure since 2015. The additional paved multi-use trails complement the on-street bicycle infrastructure and increases the connections for vulnerable road users who either choose or use active transportation out of necessity.

INCOG is known for being a regional leader that can successfully bring multiple jurisdictions to the table to complete a project in an efficient manner. I ask USDOT to give full and fair consideration of this project.

Sincerely,



Kevin Hern
Member of Congress



April 12, 2022

Secretary Pete Buttigieg
U.S. Department of Transportation
Office of the Secretary of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

To the Honorable Secretary Buttigieg:

The Indian Nations Council of Governments (INCOG) and the Muscogee Nation are pleased to submit this application for the Tulsa-Jenks Multi-Modal Safety Project as part of the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) program.

INCOG and the Muscogee Nation are working closely with the City of Tulsa, the City of Jenks, and Tulsa County to construct an enhanced multimodal trail system and associated access improvements along the east and west banks of the Arkansas River to improve safety, meet state of good repair standards, and increase access to this critical active transportation system for residents in Areas of Persistent Poverty and Historically Disadvantaged Communities within the project area. The project will extend and upgrade the existing river trail system and significantly improve roadway design and traffic control infrastructure at arterial roadway crossings to make safe access to the trail system a possibility. The project will connect specifically to the Turkey Mountain Urban Wilderness Area, a major recreational destination, as well as a locally funded pedestrian bridge and low-water dam. The project will provide for a fully separated trail surface for bicycles and pedestrians from vehicular traffic to provide safe travel conditions creating a Complete Street corridor along the high volume- high speed Riverside Parkway corridor.

The project is an investment that will be locally maintained, improving access to jobs in the two communities in Oklahoma, providing an opportunity for alternative transportation modes for no-car households, increasing the number of electric vehicle charging stations and bikeshare stations in the area. This project is a high priority for INCOG, and the Muscogee Nation and the project is ready for implementation based on wide ranging and long-standing planning and design studies. Federal support for this multi-jurisdictional, environmentally sustainable project that will advance equity is necessary to realize the community vision and benefits to be achieved by this project. 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 Transportation Improvement Program when RAISE funding is secured.

We appreciate your consideration of INCOG and the Muscogee Nation's Tulsa-Jenks Multi-Modal Safety Project RAISE grant proposal. Should you have any questions regarding this project, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Rich Brierre

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rich Brierre", written in a cursive style.

Executive Director
Indian Nations Council of Governments (INCOG)



Muscogee (CREEK) Nation

Executive Office

April 7, 2022

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation (MCN) is a self-governed Native American tribal government whose tribal boundary encompasses 7,200 square miles in eleven counties in Oklahoma, including the City of Jenks and the southern portion of the City of Tulsa. 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 our local communities to complete projects that enhance our region, and thus strengthening the Muscogee Nation.

An example of one of these projects is when MCN realigned a section of Tulsa River Parks trails from the front of the River Spirit Casino and Resort to behind it and along the banks of the Arkansas River. The original multi-use trail paralleled Riverside Parkway, a high speed, multi-lane arterial, and crosses 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 the new one-mile section of the trail. This accomplished two objectives, eliminating conflicts between motorized vehicles and trail users, and the second was to upgrade the trail to the adopted regional dual trail standard. This is to say that MCN understands the priority of making our most vulnerable transportation system users safer.

The Nation is co-sponsoring INCOG's RAISE application for the Tulsa-Jenks Multi-Modal Safety Project as we are committed to a collaborative relationship with the Cities of Jenks and Tulsa to improve our region. **The objective of the proposed RAISE project is to connect communities with safe alternative transportation options and to improve traffic signals at eight intersections, two of which serve as entrances to our Muscogee Nations' property on the Eastbank of the River. On the Westbank, the Arkansas River is a barrier that prohibits pedestrians and people on bikes from connecting to our entertainment district to other existing destinations. The improved and connected trail system will also provide an alternate means for many of our employees who live nearby to get to work.**

I request USDOT to partner with the Muscogee Nation, INCOG, City of Tulsa & City of Jenks on this regionally significant project.

Regards,

David W. Hill

David Hill
Principal Chief



G.T. Bynum
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

April 7, 2022

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

RE: RAISE Grant application for Tulsa-Jenks Multi-Modal Safety Project: Connecting Communities for Equity and Safety

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

As the Mayor of Tulsa, I am excited for our city to partner with the City of Jenks, INCOG and the Muscogee Nation on the Tulsa-Jenks Multi-Modal Safety Project. This project 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 Tulsa's adopted Complete Streets policy and environmentally sustainable river development. Both initiatives promote a healthy lifestyle and increase the quality of life for Tulsans.

The Arkansas River is Tulsa's defining physical feature and provides an opportunity to be an economic driver for our future. For much of our city's history, the river was polluted and treated more as a barrier and a problem rather than an asset. 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; however, it is not continuous and does not connect to many neighborhoods and emerging destinations.

The City's vision extends to working with our local partners to help fund the construction of 7.75 miles of multi-use trail along the river with a \$3 million match towards the project. The RAISE grant will create a multi-modal corridor that will connect much of the City of Tulsa to a planned locally funded dam and bicycle/pedestrian bridge. The current route from Turkey Mountain to Jenks and south Tulsa neighborhoods is on a two-lane 45 mph road with no shoulders. This along with the safety improvements on Riverside Parkway and additional trails on the east side of the river will create an overall better user experience.

As a former mayor, you understand that Midwest American cities' futures depend on creating great public spaces and providing access to them. This project goes to the heart of USDOT's RAISE grant emphasis on improved access to reliable, safe, and affordable transportation by improving infrastructure condition, addressing public health and safety, state of good repair, 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 exist 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



TULSA CITY COUNCIL

April 12, 2022

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

RE: Support for Tulsa-Jenks Riverfront Connections Project

Dear Mr. Secretary,

As a Tulsa City Councilor from District 8, I would like to express my enthusiastic support for INCOG's RAISE grant application for the Tulsa-Jenks Multi-Modal Safety Project: Connecting Communities for Equity and Safety. This project was first conceptualized as a part of the 1999 Trails Regional Masterplan funded with a Transportation Enhancement Grant. The plan was approved as a part of the Long-Range Transportation Plan and the Tulsa Comprehensive Plan by the Tulsa City Council over 20 years ago.

The RAISE grant application proposes constructing 7.75 miles of multi-use trail to be built in tandem with updated ADA and pedestrian crossings at seven intersections across a major arterial, Riverside Parkway. I have been a city councilor since 2011, and I receive countless emails and phone calls from south Tulsans who desire to see the trail extended to their neighborhoods so they can have the opportunity to ride a bike or walk to work and school, access River Parks, and visit the shops and restaurants located directly across Riverside Parkway from their neighborhoods. Currently, the very busy Riverside Parkway acts as a major barrier, and it is too dangerous to cross without being in a vehicle. This grant will resolve this issue and create a significantly better quality of life for residents in adjoining neighborhoods.

The project will also provide an expanded safe transportation system for west Tulsans, including public housing residents. The connection of Turkey Mountain Urban Wilderness to the City of Jenks via a multi-use trail will create new access to jobs; and according to the City of Tulsa's 2018 equality indicators, west Tulsa scores .193 out of 1 for bikeability equity.

The Tulsa City Council and Tulsa voters have approved the use of public funds to be used as a match for the RAISE project. In addition to the direct safety and connected benefits of the project, the city will also benefit indirectly by bringing in visitors from outside the Tulsa region to enjoy river amenities. Visitors will also dine and shop at our local restaurants and entertainment districts. The sales tax income that is generated will allow Tulsa to continue to invest in progressive, transportation projects like this.

Please accept this letter of strong support and help us implement the Tulsa-Jenks Multi-Modal Safety Project. We are eager to start this project and look forward to its completion.

Sincerely,

Phil Lakin, Jr.
Tulsa City Council, District 8



CITY OF JENKS

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

April 7, 2022

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

RE: Support for Tulsa-Jenks Multi-Modal Safety Project: Connecting
Communities for Equity and Safety

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

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-Jenks Multi-Modal Safety Project to strengthen the region's trail and roadway systems for enhanced mobility and community connections. When completed, this project will connect more people safely to commercial and entertainment districts in Jenks.

The City of Jenks will commit \$1.05 million of local funding which was approved by Jenks voters in 2016 through our Vision Jenks Capital Improvement Program. Paired with the commitment of funds by the City of Tulsa, these funds represent the match for the proposed \$16.20 million RAISE grant for the Tulsa-Jenks Multi-Modal Safety Project.

We will work closely with INCOG and the other project partners to complete the project in an expeditious manner. The City of Jenks has 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 infrastructure within our jurisdiction.

Please accept this letter of support and financial commitment from the City of Jenks for INCOG's Tulsa-Jenks Multi-Modal Safety Project. Again, the City of Jenks is pleased to support this application as this truly is a project of regional significance, and it will have a positive impact on our community and visitors when it is completed.

Sincerely,

Cory Box, Mayor
City of Jenks



CITY OF JENKS

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

April 8, 2022
Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

The City of Jenks understands that land use and development decisions made today will define what our community will look like for generations. INCOG's RAISE application for 7.75 miles of multi-use trails aligns clearly with our 2020 Comprehensive Plan. Participants in the Comprehensive Plan community engagement process "identified a need for trail improvements and expansion of the existing trails network to improve on the lack of pedestrian and bike connectivity." We are also pleased that the Tulsa-Jenks Multi-Modal Safety Project encompasses the Arkansas River corridor adjacent to the original townsite of Jenks, as much of the area is defined as a Historically Disadvantaged Community by USDOT.

The City of Jenks strongly supports the RAISE project as it will continue our efforts to improve the quality of life for the citizens of Jenks. River corridor development in the City of Jenks began with the construction of the Oklahoma Aquarium, a 501(c)3 in 2003, and later the Jenks Riverwalk Crossing in 2005 (now owned by the Muscogee Nation). In addition, in 2016, the voters of Jenks approved the Vision tax package that includes our portion of the RAISE grant funding match. The RAISE project will help spur economic growth for our city and improve mobility and community connectivity.

In addition, ADA improvements and filling in sidewalk gaps on Riverside Parkway in Tulsa helps create a Safe Route to School for Jenks Public Schools campuses located across the river in Tulsa. Another safety component of the project is the much-needed multi-use trail on top of a flood control levee along the Arkansas River connecting to the Turkey Mountain Urban Wilderness. Currently, our residents are unable to travel safely to Turkey Mountain Urban Wilderness via a bicycle or walking due to Elwood Avenue's lack of shoulders, sidewalk gaps, and posted speed limit of 45 mph along this arterial roadway.

We have worked with INCOG in the past on multi-jurisdictional grants and look forward to doing so again on this project. We urge your favorable consideration of the regionally significant Tulsa-Jenks Riverfront Connections Project so we can get started.

Respectfully,



Chris Shrout

City Manager, City of Jenks, OK



Board of County Commissioners

Tulsa County HQ
218 W. 6th St.
Tulsa, OK 74119-1004
P: 918.596.5015
F: 918.596.8500

KAREN KEITH
COUNTY COMMISSIONER
DISTRICT #2

April 8, 2022

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I am enthusiastic about INCOG's RAISE grant and the possibility of pushing our multi-use trail system further south on both the east and west sides of the Arkansas River and the much-needed ADA and pedestrian crossing improvements along the very busy Riverside Parkway. 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, not just these two cities. It will enhance connections to other suburbs in Tulsa County such as Bixby and Glenpool. These connections will allow our region to grow in innovative ways by providing safe and increased mobility and access to active transportation opportunities.

Tulsa County has been a part of the concept of this plan since 2004, when the Arkansas River Vision Plan was developed. As County Commissioner, I supported the Transportation Alternative Program application Tulsa County secured to create a conceptual plan of the multi-use trail system from Turkey Mountain Urban Wilderness 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-Jenks Multi-Modal Safety Project: Connecting Communities for Equity and Safety.

This project is personally so important to me that 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 Jenks and west Tulsa, including critical wastewater treatment infrastructure and the RL Jones, Jr. Riverside airport 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 in 2019.

Once the entire project is constructed and completed, 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 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



April 8, 2022

2121 S. Columbia Ave.
Suite 205
Tulsa, Oklahoma
74114

918-596-2001

www.riverparks.org

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

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 and economic connections within the region.

Board of Trustees

Marvin Jones
Chair

Derek Martin
Vice Chair

Stephen Fater
Treasurer

Sharon King Davis

Ken Levit

David Phillips

Torre Waldo

Matt Meyer
Executive Director

River Parks Authority is in full support of INCOG's RAISE grant as this aligns with both our mission and vision. We have already received authorization from the Corps of Engineers to improve a section of trail from the River Spirit Casino south to 96th & Riverside Drive; this trail segment is in in poor condition and is a part of this proposed project. In addition, we have been awarded a Transportation Alternatives Program grant (TAP) that will allow us to accelerate moving forward with this portion of the project. This portion of trail does not meet our standards of a safe, dual-trail system that can accommodate our users with minimal conflicts. Our intention is to partner with both the cities of Tulsa and Jenks to maintain the trail system once construction is complete.

I kindly request that USDOT partner with INCOG to fund the Tulsa-Jenks Multi-Modal Safety Project: Connecting Communities for Equity and Safety forward. Please let me know if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

Matt Meyer
Executive Director

April 10, 2022

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

Jenks Public Schools is pleased to submit a letter of support for the **Tulsa-Jenks Multi-Modal Safety Project: Connecting Communities for Equity and Safety**. Transportation is a central barrier for many of our students to safely and consistently attend classes and events. This project symbolizes the focus of the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant program as the project has regional significance in terms of safety and quality of life for our students and community members within the Jenks school district.

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 campus. Jenks school district spans both sides of the Arkansas River, and two cities (Jenks and Tulsa), leading to a great need for safe alternative transportation facilities that serve students walking and riding a bike.

We are committed to creating Safe Routes to Schools. The project will include a safer pedestrian crossing at Riverside Pkwy and E 101st St S. This will allow our students to use the trails on River Parks to connect the High School with the Middle School campus. The current configuration of the intersection is very unsafe, and our kids have to rely on single-occupancy vehicles to get from one campus to the other if they have extracurricular activities at either campus.

Currently, our cross-country and track students use the multi-use trails on the Tulsa side of the river for practice. The proposed extension of the multi-use trail from Turkey Mountain Urban Wilderness to Jenks would allow our High School athletes to train closer to the High School campus in Jenks.

We hope USDOT will recognize our need to protect our children and support the implementation of Safe Route to School facilities (as a part of the Multi-Modal Safety Project) to and near our campuses and that you will partner with INCOG to make this project a reality for our families.

Sincerely,



Stacey Butterfield, Ed.D.
Superintendent
Jenks Public Schools
SB/jz



TULSA REGIONAL CHAMBER

April 7, 2022

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

We are most pleased to submit a letter of support for the Tulsa-Jenks Multi-Modal Safety Project: Connecting Communities for Equity and Safety. This project submitted by INCOG, our Regional Metropolitan Planning Organization and co-sponsored by 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 safety, mobility and community connectivity, and quality of life for urban and rural residents within the Tulsa metropolitan region of Northeastern Oklahoma.

Tulsa-Jenks Multi-Modal Safety Project investments represent a regionally significant and transformative project that addresses one of our region's key economic development barriers: safe transportation. The absence of safe and connected transportation opportunities has been a persistent barrier 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.

This project constructs safe, off-street bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure that connects area residents to jobs, services, and regionally significant destinations. Included in these are 2 of the 4 largest tourism destinations in the Tulsa region: The Oklahoma Aquarium and Turkey Mountain Urban Wilderness. 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 arterial crossings of Riverside Parkway, we are able to build upon our local and regional assets and better position our economic future for Northeastern Oklahoma.



TULSA REGIONAL CHAMBER

The Tulsa Regional Chamber fully supports INCOG, MCN, and the Cities of Tulsa and Jenks in their effort to improve safety, economic development, and mobility and community connectivity in the Tulsa region. We look forward to USDOT partnering with INCOG to make this project a reality.

Sincerely,



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

April 7, 2022

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

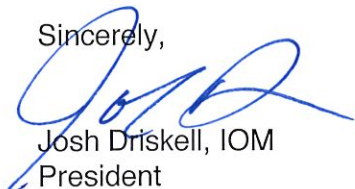
As the Chamber of Commerce for Jenks, Oklahoma, we are delighted to submit a letter of support for the Tulsa-Jenks Multi-Modal Safety Project: Connecting Communities for Equity and Safety. This project is a natural fit for the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant program. It is a multi-jurisdictional transportation project that will have regional significance in terms of mobility and community connectivity, state of good repair, safety, and quality of life for residents of Jenks.

Our vision is to be the driving force for business growth and enhanced quality of life for the Jenks community. We believe the Tulsa-Jenks Multi-Modal Safety Project embodies this vision by:

- (1) Creating safe, off-street transportation options between our local businesses, residents, and regional destinations;
- (2) Improving the quality of life for our residents as we live, work, and play in the many regional destinations that exist along the river corridor 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 RAISE grant project improvements. We fully support the City of Jenks and INCOG in their effort to improve safety, economic development, and quality of life in Northeastern Oklahoma through the Tulsa-Jenks Multi-Modal Safety Project. We hope USDOT will recognize the needs and the opportunities the project offers our region, and we urge you to move this project forward.

Sincerely,



Josh Driskell, IOM
President
Jenks Chamber of Commerce



April 7, 2022

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

RE: RAISE Grant Letter of Support for the Indian Nation Council of Governments (INCOG)

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

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-Jenks Multi-Modal Safety Project: Connecting Communities for Equity and Safety. 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 Multi-Modal Safety 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 such as more visible crosswalks, ADA improvements on Riverside Parkway and relocating a highly used pedestrian crossing away from a busy city street and turnpike intersection are countermeasures listed in FHWA's Safe Transportation for Every Pedestrian (STEP) improvement list. The project in its entirety will better protect vulnerable trail and road users.

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 USDOT on this RAISE 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".

Tim J. Gatz
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."

Tim J. Gatz
Executive Director
Secretary of Transportation

Governor J. Kevin Stitt
Member Ex-Officio



April 11, 2022

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

The Oklahoma Turnpike Authority (OTA) is pleased to submit a letter of support and partnership for INCOG's Tulsa-Jenks Multi-Modal Safety Project: Connecting Communities for Equity and Safety. This project elevates the safety of the transportation network by building or enhancing 7.75 miles of multi-use trails that are separated from major roadways. Separating vulnerable transportation users 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 RAISE 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. In addition, the project includes enhanced crosswalks at this same intersection. 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 must 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 and the Cities of Tulsa and Jenks for this project by approving a use agreement for the trail and additional trail amenities on OTA's right-of-way. We are eager to collaborate with INCOG, the City of Tulsa, the City of Jenks, and the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and urge USDOT to do so as well by approving the proposed RAISE project.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joe Echelle".

Joe Echelle PE MBA
Deputy Director

April 7, 2022

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

The Tulsa City County Health Department is pleased to submit a letter of support for the Tulsa-Jenks Multi-Modal Safety Project: Connecting Communities for Equity and Safety. The Health Department is in constant pursuit of a healthier Tulsa, and the addition of 7.75 miles of dual multi-use trail system helps us towards our vision, which is to become the healthiest county in the country. In addition, the proposed ADA, crosswalk, and pedestrian refuge improvements will provide more community connections to the river and other amenities.

Eight of the top ten deaths in Tulsa County are the result of chronic conditions like heart disease and diabetes. Healthy behaviors such as physical activity can decrease these diseases. Our built environment influences our residents' levels of physical activity as well as access to healthy food, jobs, and education. For example, inaccessible or nonexistent sidewalks and bicycle paths contribute to sedentary habits. In order to address these issues, the Tulsa City County Health Department collaborates with other health entities, city planners, elected and appointed officials, business owners, and transportation agencies to create a healthy community design.

Since COVID-19, Tulsa County has seen an increase in the rate of people using our trail system because it is one of the few outdoor safe places people can utilize without worrying about vehicular traffic. The Tulsa-Jenks Multi-Modal Safety Project will increase neighborhood connections to the existing trail network, making it easier for more Tulsans to walk or ride a bike for exercise or to make short trips to destinations in the corridor, thus making the healthy choice the easy choice. I hope USDOT partners with INCOG to move this project forward.

Sincerely,



Bruce Dart PH. D.
Executive Director
Tulsa City County Health Department

April 7, 2022



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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

Tulsa's Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) is a group of citizen advocates who promote the Safe Systems Approach (safe streets, safe speeds, safe vehicles, safe road users, and post-crash care) pertaining to bicycle and pedestrian modes.

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-Jenks Multi-Modal Safety Project: Connecting Communities for Equity and Safety.

Key components of this plan that align with our goal of creating an improved environment for bicycles and pedestrians are safety, comfort, and increased connectivity. Currently, if a person wanted to ride a bike or walk from Turkey Mountain Urban Wilderness to Jenks Riverwalk Crossing 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 Urban Wilderness to Jenks would alleviate this problem. Also, the addition of ADA and intersection improvements on the east side of the river will connect more neighborhoods to numerous destinations along the river. This will decrease the percentage of dependence upon motorized vehicles for trips that are 2 miles or less and aid commuters using the river trail system.

As the bicycle and pedestrian advocacy group for the region, we ask USDOT to award INCOG's and Muscogee Nation's RAISE grant application for the Tulsa-Jenks Multi-Modal Safety Project.

Thank you for your time and attention,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mitch Drummond", written in a cursive style.

Mitch Drummond
Chair, Tulsa Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee



April 7, 2022

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

To the Honorable Secretary Buttigieg:

The city of Tulsa and its surrounding region is known for its spirit of collaboration and partnerships, and when INCOG invited Francis Energy to be a partner of the *Tulsa-Jenks Multi-Modal Safety Project: Connecting Communities for Equity and Safety*, we welcomed the opportunity.

Our vision is to create a contiguous electric vehicle direct-current fast charging (DCFC) network every 50 miles across middle America to eradicate “range anxiety” for EV owners. With funding from the RAISE grant, Francis Energy will install four EV charging stations on each side of the two pedestrian bridges, the 96th St S. bridge and the low water/pedestrian bridge at 104th St S. These stations will benefit both the environmental sustainability and the mobility and community connectivity of the project. Both in-state and out-of-state tourists will not have to worry about charging their EVs when coming to visit River Parks and other outdoor amenities to recreate while their cars are charging.

Francis Energy focuses on the EV experience, but we also value other electric transportation partners, such as Tulsa’s bike share, This Machine, and its fleet of electric pedal assist bikes. We know that some users of Francis Energy charging stations will also be using This Machine bikes along the proposed 7.75 miles of new trails. Once these users switch from an automobile to a bicycle, they become vulnerable road users, and we value the safety elements of INCOG’s Tulsa-Jenks Multi-Modal Safety Project for users of the trail network.

Francis Energy fully supports INCOG’s RAISE grant project, and we request USDOT to move this project forward so that it can become a reality and enhance the Tulsa region.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "JPitcock".

Jason Pitcock
SVP, Government Relations
Francis Energy

April 8, 2022

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



Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

Humble Sons is a nonprofit in Tulsa, OK whose vision is for every kid to own and ride a bike. Our nonprofit's mission is, "Building confident cyclists through community engagement." Our flagship program, Bike Club, is a free after school program for 4th - 12th graders. Our students learn bicycle handling skills, "rules of the road" and how to ride safely to local destinations near their schools and neighborhoods.

We urge USDOT to award INCOG's and Muscogee Creek Nation's Tulsa-Jenks Multi-Modal Safety Project: Connecting Communities for Equity and Safety, as this will directly benefit our Bike Club kids. Two of our Title I schools, Eugene Field Elementary and Webster Middle School are located in west Tulsa near the Arkansas River. Our Bike Club volunteers will be able to use the extended trail from Turkey Mountain to Jenks as learning opportunities to show the kids the destinations they could ride to such as the Oklahoma Aquarium and the future already funded low-water dam. In addition, some of our former Bike Club kids use the current trail system as a form of transportation to get to their summer jobs instead of driving a car. The extension of the multi-use trail will connect these teenagers to even more job opportunities.

Thank you for your time and consideration for the Tulsa-Jenks Multi-Modal Safety Project. If awarded, our Bike Club kids and volunteers will be putting in many bike miles on these new sections of trail.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jason Whorton". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jason Whorton

Executive Director
Humble Sons Bike Co. & Bike Club
M: 918.607.2385
E: jason@humblesons.org

April 8, 2022

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

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-Jenks Multi-Modal Safety Project: Connecting Communities for Equity and Safety, 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 strongly support the safety aspect of the project. The current route does become quite dangerous as vulnerable road users must cross intersections of heavy traffic which puts many people in harm's way. Added pedestrian refuge islands, ADA ramps, and building out sidewalk gaps on Riverside Parkway will provide an opportunity for increased active transportation on this arterial corridor. The plans for INCOG's Multi-Modal Safety Project have been anticipated for years; it will also safely reroute the trail away from fast moving vehicles and rebuild it adjacent 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 for alternative transportation users and will reduce contact with automobiles.

USDOT should choose to invest in the Tulsa region because our community and 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-Jenks Multi-Modal safety Project is one of these initiatives.

Regards,

*Thank You,
Sharon King Davis.*

Sharon King Davis
King Investments



America's most generous city®

April 12, 2022

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

Tulsa Community Foundation (TCF) is pleased to submit this letter of support for the Tulsa-Jenks Multi-Modal Safety Project: Connecting Communities for Equity and Safety. TCF is a charitable community foundation focused on Tulsa-area initiatives that improve the wellbeing and livelihood of our residents. Improving community connectivity, safety, and quality of life 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, with other donors, were 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 and the Muscogee Creek Nation to fund this project.

Please let me know if I or our team at TCF can be of any further assistance as you consider this exceptional project.

Very Sincerely,
Tulsa Community Foundation

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'William J. Stava, III', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

William J. Stava, III
Chief Operating Officer

THIS MACHINE



April 8, 2022
Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

This Machine, Tulsa's nonprofit bike share, is pleased to submit a letter of support for the Tulsa-Jenks Multi-Modal Safety Project: Connecting Communities for Equity and Safety RAISE grant. The addition of 7.75 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. The proposed pedestrian refuge islands, pedestrian signal heads, continental crosswalks, and new sidewalks on Riverside Parkway will also increase the number of users of bike share as there will be increased safe connectivity from neighborhoods to the bike share stations.

Currently, the majority of our ridership is within Downtown Tulsa and along River Parks. With the addition of the trail connections on the west side from Turkey Mountain to Jenks and building the trail further south to King's Landing shopping center on the east side, I foresee bike share increasing its footprint with additional funding and bike stations and be able to serve a greater population of the Tulsa region.

Thank you for your time and consideration for INCOG's Tulsa-Jenks Multi-Modal Safety Project.

Regards,



Katie Sawicki
Executive Director
This Machine, Tulsa, OK