

ROY BLUNT  
MISSOURI

CHAIRMAN, REPUBLICAN POLICY COMMITTEE

260 RUSSELL SENATE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-2508  
202-224-5721

United States Senate  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

COMMITTEES:  
APPROPRIATIONS  
  
COMMERCE, SCIENCE  
AND TRANSPORTATION  
  
RULES AND  
ADMINISTRATION,  
RANKING MEMBER  
  
SELECT COMMITTEE  
ON INTELLIGENCE

April 5, 2022

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Secretary of Transportation  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE  
Washington, DC 20590-0001

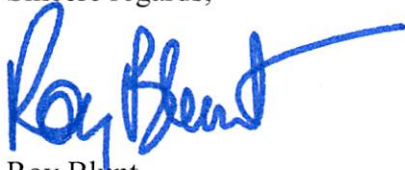
Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

It has been brought to my attention that the City of Republic, in cooperation with the Ozarks Transportation Organization and the Missouri Department of Transportation, has applied for a Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant to fund the Highway MM Corridor of Opportunity Project.

The State Highway MM Corridor has experienced rapid and sustained economic development that has generated a significant increase in traffic, especially freight traffic along this corridor. The Highway MM Corridor of Opportunity Project will fix current and future capacity and safety issues on Highway MM between I-44 and U.S. 60. Funding from this grant will realign (new roadway) Highway MM, close three railroad at-grade crossings, add an ADA sidewalk and trail along the new alignment, as well as additional capacity and turn lanes to the corridor.

The efforts of the City of Republic and their partners to pursue infrastructure improvements for this area is to be commended. It is my hope that you will give this grant application your full and fair consideration.

Sincere regards,



Roy Blunt  
United States Senator

BILLY LONG  
7TH DISTRICT, MISSOURI

COMMITTEE ON  
ENERGY AND COMMERCE  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON  
COMMUNICATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON ENERGY  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON  
HEALTH

2454 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
(PHONE) (202) 225-6536  
(FAX) (202) 225-5604

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-2507

March 28, 2022

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

Re: City of Republic State Highway MM RAISE Grant Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

This letter comes in support of the City of Republic and their Highway MM: *Corridor of Opportunity* RAISE Discretionary Grant application.

This project will enhance safety, provide for alternative modes of transportation, and add capacity to a rural route that is rapidly becoming a regional economic hub. The development of businesses along the corridor that use large trucks to transport materials include Amazon STL3 Fulfilment Center, Convoy of Hope, Magellan Fuel Pipeline, Herrman Lumber, Red Monkey Foods, Heart of America Beverage, McLane Food Distributors, and Watson Metal Masters.

The proposed project will provide for safe community connectivity by closing two at-grade railroad crossings, building a new road alignment with an overpass over the BNSF railroad, providing a trail for bicycles and pedestrians, and turning a two-lane planned arterial into a five-lane facility. The improvement will deliver the ability to manage the truck and commuter traffic along the corridor.

This project has the support of business and community leaders, as well as the regional transportation planning organizations. Completion of this project is not only integral to continued growth of the area, but also to the safety of travelers. This proposed project is truly an example of what RAISE is supposed to accomplish, providing increased safety, economic development opportunities, and multi-modal transportation options.

Again, I am very pleased to support the City of Republic and their Highway MM: *Corridor of Opportunity* RAISE Discretionary Grant application. I trust that you will give their application your utmost consideration.

Sincerely,



Billy Long

April 6, 2022



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

Dear Secretary, Buttigieg:

On behalf of Amazon, I am writing to express our support for Highway MM: Corridor of Opportunity grant through the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) discretionary grant program. The project will increase safety and economic vitality along the corridor with capacity expansion and at-grade railroad crossing closures.

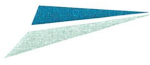
Highway MM is critical for us to provide our 1400+ workforce safe passage to and from our site. The maintenance and integrity of this road is very important in our ability to provide our team members the ability to leave and arrive without potential congestion.

We appreciate your consideration and attention to this matter and look forward to an improved transportation network that will allow the region to continue to grow in a safe, planned manner to bring connectivity and opportunity to all residents.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T R Baltes', is written over a horizontal line.

Tim R. Baltes  
Human Resources Manager  
STL3 – TNS Fulfillment Center  
Amazon



**Springfield-Branson**  
**NATIONAL AIRPORT**

2300 n airport blvd ste 100  
springfield missouri 65802  
p 417.868.0500 f 417.868.0501

April 4, 2022

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

This letter is to express strong support from the Springfield-Branson National Airport (SGF) for the Highway MM *Corridor of Opportunity* project application being considered through the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) discretionary grant program.

SGF is a fast-growing FAA designated small-hub airport serving over 1.2 million annual passengers through four airlines and 15 direct destinations. The airport handled over 35 million pounds of air cargo in 2021 by carriers UPS and FedEx and operates a 23 county SW Missouri Foreign Trade Zone (#225). We are also home to a Missouri Air National Guard Base, college flight training program, and an active general aviation community.

Highway MM serves as a primary route for the airport and our region. The project will increase safety and connectivity by expanding the current two lanes arterial road into a five-lane corridor and closing two at-grade railroad crossings. There are also associated trail improvements for bicycle and pedestrians. If approved, it would significantly improve the economic vitality of SW Missouri.

We appreciate your consideration and attention to this matter and look forward to an improved multimodal transportation network that will allow the region to continue to grow in a safe, planned manner to bring connectivity and opportunity to all residents.

Sincerely,

Brian C. Weiler  
Director of Aviation





April 7, 2022

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of the Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce and our nearly 1500 member businesses, I am writing to express support for Highway MM: Corridor of Opportunity for consideration under the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Discretionary Grant Program.

The Springfield region is on a trajectory of growth, and the City of Republic is one of the fastest growing communities in our state. The Highway MM Corridor of Opportunity Project aims to enhance safety, provide for alternative modes of transportation, and add capacity to a rural route that is rapidly becoming a regional economic hub. The improvements will deliver the ability to manage the growing truck and commuter traffic along the corridor that connects Interstate 44 to multiple other major highways including US Highway 60.

The project will address safety considerations by closing two at-grade railroad crossings, building a new road alignment with an overpass over the BNSF railroad, providing a trail for bicycle and pedestrians, and turning a two-lane planned arterial into a five-lane corridor.

Transportation infrastructure is always a top priority of the Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce and the regional business community. We believe it is a pillar of economic growth and prosperity.

We appreciate your consideration and look forward to an improved transportation network. This investment will allow the region to continue to grow in a safe, strategic manner to bring connectivity and opportunity to residents and businesses and to serve as a catalyst for continued growth.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matt Morrow".

Matt Morrow  
President  
Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce  
PO Box 1687  
Springfield, MO 65801



March 31, 2022

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

Dear Secretary, Buttigieg:

On behalf of the Republic Area Chamber of Commerce and as a local business owner, I am writing to express our support for Highway MM: Corridor of Opportunity grant through the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) discretionary grant program. The project will increase safety and economic vitality along the corridor with capacity expansion and at-grade railroad crossing closures.

The proposed project will provide for safer community connectivity by closing two at-grade railroad crossings, building a new road alignment with an overpass over the BNSF railroad, providing a trail for bicycle and pedestrians, and turning a two-lane planned arterial into a five-lane corridor. The improvement will deliver the ability to manage the growing truck and commuter traffic along the corridor that connects Interstate 44 to multiple other major highways including US Highway 60.

The City of Republic is one of the fastest growing regions in the state. Highway MM serves as primary route to the Springfield-Branson National Airport as well as the Wilson's Creek National Battlefield.

As our area is central to "everything" with the ability to transport anything thanks to rail, interstate, and air, this makes it a perfect location set for current and future economic growth for our small businesses, allowing families to shop local and those out of area to rest, in what is now becoming a destination.

As the Director of the Republic Area Chamber of Commerce, owner of two small businesses within this area, and a father of three, I can accurately tell you on behalf of the local community at large, these additions in infrastructure would be instrumental to the positive growth, our livelihoods, as well as a destination for a high quality of life and future prosperity.

We appreciate your consideration and attention to this matter and look forward to an improved transportation network that will allow the region to continue to grow in a safe, planned manner to bring connectivity and opportunity to all residents.

Sincerely,

Macy Mitchell  
Director of the Republic Chamber/Local Business Owner

# Ozarks Clean Air ALLIANCE

25 March 2022

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

The Ozarks Clean Air Alliance, a 15-county member organization formed in 2008 and charged with improving air quality and managing local participation in the Ozone and PM Advance programs, is pleased to support the Highway MM: *Corridor of Opportunity* project. This project works to ease congestion in a rapidly growing area. It provides bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure, as well as creates an opportunity for EV charging in an area with little access. These are all initiatives that work towards cleaner air in southwest Missouri.

Since OCAA's formation in 2008, significant improvements have been made in the region's air quality. The natural beauty of the Ozarks further highlights why it is imperative to maintain these improvements. The trails, rivers, and lakes in the region promote community health, quality of life, and serve as an important economic engine in attracting visitors and new businesses.

OCAA supports projects that decrease idling, provide alternative modes of transportation, and reduce tail pipe emissions that lead to the formation of Ozone and produce greenhouse gases. The Highway MM: *Corridor of Opportunity* project accomplishes this while supporting a growing and economically vital portion of the region.

We appreciate your consideration of the Highway MM: *Corridor of Opportunity* project and look forward to the continued efforts to preserve air quality in the Ozarks.

Sincerely,



Barbara J. Lucks  
Chair



March 31, 2022

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

Dear Secretary, Buttigieg:

I am writing to express our support for Highway MM: Corridor of Opportunity grant through the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) discretionary grant program. The project will increase safety and economic vitality along the corridor with capacity expansion and at-grade railroad crossing closures.

The proposed project will provide for safer community connectivity by closing two at-grade railroad crossings, building a new road alignment with an overpass over the BNSF railroad, providing a trail for bicycle and pedestrians, and turning a two-lane planned arterial into a five-lane corridor. The improvement will deliver the ability to manage the growing truck and commuter traffic along the corridor that connects Interstate 44 to multiple other major highways including US Highway 60.

The City of Republic is one of the fastest growing regions in the state. Highway MM serves as primary route to the Springfield-Branson National Airport as well as the Wilson's Creek National Battlefield.

As a real estate developer, I see the demand from various companies wanting to locate to this area. These companies want to hire hundreds of workers for their respective businesses and safe roadways are a must.

We appreciate your consideration and attention to this matter and look forward to an improved transportation network that will allow the region to continue to grow in a safe, planned manner to bring connectivity and opportunity to all residents.

Sincerely,

Tom Rankin





**WATSON**  
**METAL MASTERS INC.**

***We'll make you shine!***

6800 W. Stainless Way      Springfield, MO 65802  
Phone: 417-725-5484      Fax: 417-725-0939

March 6, 2022

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

Dear Secretary, Buttigieg:

On behalf of Watson Metal Masters, Inc., I am writing to express our support for Highway MM: Corridor of Opportunity grant through the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) discretionary grant program. The project will increase safety and economic vitality along the corridor with capacity expansion and at-grade railroad crossing closures.

The proposed project will provide for safer community connectivity by closing two at-grade railroad crossings, building a new road alignment with an overpass over the BNSF railroad, providing a trail for bicycle and pedestrians, and turning a two-lane planned arterial into a five-lane corridor. The improvement will deliver the ability to manage the growing truck and commuter traffic along the corridor that connects Interstate 44 to multiple other major highways including US Highway 60.

The City of Republic is one of the fastest growing regions in the state. Highway MM serves as primary route to the Springfield-Branson National Airport as well as the Wilson's Creek National Battlefield.

As the area continues to develop, and especially with the new Amazon FC and Convoy of Hope DC, traffic has increased to a near hazardous level. Wait times to access Hwy MM have dramatically increased and I see the impatience's of drivers increase, which leads to accidents.

We appreciate your consideration and attention to this matter and look forward to an improved transportation network that will allow the region to continue to grow in a safe, planned manner to bring connectivity and opportunity to all residents.

Sincerely,

Wm. A. Schahuber  
President  
Watson Metal Masters, Inc.

**PROUDLY MADE IN AMERICA**

**YOUR TANK AND VESSEL MANUFACTURER.....WE'LL MAKE YOU SHINE**



April 7, 2022

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

Dear Secretary, Buttigieg:

On behalf of Heart America Beverage, I am writing to express our support for Highway MM: Corridor of Opportunity grant through the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) discretionary grant program. The project will increase safety and economic vitality along the corridor with capacity expansion and at-grade railroad crossing closures.

The proposed project will provide for safer community connectivity by closing two at-grade railroad crossings, building a new road alignment with an overpass over the BNSF railroad, providing a trail for bicycle and pedestrians, and turning a two-lane planned arterial into a five-lane corridor. The improvement will deliver the ability to manage the growing truck and commuter traffic along the corridor that connects Interstate 44 to multiple other major highways including US Highway 60.

The City of Republic is one of the fastest growing regions in the state. Highway MM serves as primary route to the Springfield-Branson National Airport as well as the Wilson's Creek National Battlefield.

We appreciate your consideration and attention to this matter and look forward to an improved transportation network that will allow the region to continue to grow in a safe, planned manner to bring connectivity and opportunity to all residents.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "M. Ferguson Hoff", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Mindy Ferguson Hoff  
President  
Heart of America Beverage Company  
1700 S Empire  
Springfield, Missouri 65802  
Office 417-883-4333  
Fax 417-883-9545

April 6, 2022

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

Dear Secretary, Buttigieg:

On behalf of Magers Management Co, I, LP, I am writing to express our support for Highway MM: Corridor of Opportunity grant through the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) discretionary grant program. The project will increase safety and economic vitality along the corridor with capacity expansion and at-grade railroad crossing closures.

The proposed project will provide for safer community connectivity by closing two at-grade railroad crossings, building a new road alignment with an overpass over the BNSF railroad, providing a trail for bicycle and pedestrians, and turning a two-lane planned arterial into a five-lane corridor. The improvement will deliver the ability to manage the growing truck and commuter traffic along the corridor that connects Interstate 44 to multiple other major highways including US Highway 60.

The City of Republic is one of the fastest growing regions in the state. Highway MM serves as primary route to the Springfield-Branson National Airport as well as the Wilson's Creek National Battlefield.

Randy Magers' commercial development company, Magers Management, announced plans for the "Iron Grain District," a unique mixed-use destination in Republic, Mo. The community-centered development, to be located at Republic's logistical epicenter near the Amazon warehouse and Convoy of Hope, will offer contemporary multi-family housing and townhomes within walking distance to new local dining, shopping, and entertainment.

The Iron Grain District will be the largest mixed-use development in the city of Republic. The nearly \$65 million community project's residential piece is anticipated to offer 200+ units, a pool, clubhouse, dog park, and walking trails.

A 24,000 square foot shopping center is planned for the first phase of development, with additional lots available for lease. Community-centered special events throughout the year will also be part of the holistic experience offered at the Iron Grain District.

We appreciate your consideration and attention to this matter and look forward to an improved transportation network that will allow the region to continue to grow in a safe, planned manner to bring connectivity and opportunity to all residents.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Shannon Handwerker". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Shannon" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Handwerker".

Shannon Handwerker  
Vice President of Operations  
Magers Management Co. I, LP



April 1st, 2022

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

Dear Secretary, Buttigieg:

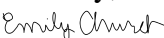
On behalf of Everything Kitchens, LLC, I am writing to express our support for Highway MM: Corridor of Opportunity grant through the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) discretionary grant program. The project will increase safety and economic vitality along the corridor with capacity expansion and at-grade railroad crossing closures.

The proposed project will provide for safer community connectivity by closing two at-grade railroad crossings, building a new road alignment with an overpass over the BNSF railroad, providing a trail for bicycle and pedestrians, and turning a two-lane planned arterial into a five-lane corridor. The improvement will deliver the ability to manage the growing truck and commuter traffic along the corridor that connects Interstate 44 to multiple other major highways including US Highway 60.

The City of Republic is one of the fastest growing regions in the state. Highway MM serves as primary route to the Springfield-Branson National Airport as well as the Wilson's Creek National Battlefield.

We have approximately 125 employees in two locations, most of which use this corridor at least some of the time to travel to and from work, particularly the employees who work at our 6820 W. Kings location. With Amazon coming to the area, traffic is a bit more congested than usual.

We appreciate your consideration and attention to this matter and look forward to an improved transportation network that will allow the region to continue to grow in a safe, planned manner to bring connectivity and opportunity to all residents.

Sincerely,  
  
Emily Church Carlton