

FIX I-44

FY2022 MPDG Grant Application



APPENDIX C LETTERS OF SUPPORT



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 29, 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 the Ozarks Transportation Organization, in collaboration with the Missouri Department of Transportation, Greene County and the City of Springfield, has applied for a Nationally Significant Freight and Highway (INFRA/MEGA) grant to fund the Fix I-44 project in Springfield, MO.

Interstate 44 is the key corridor for tourist traffic to the Ozarks and the movement of freight to markets throughout Missouri. Due to the increased volume of traffic through the portion that runs through the City of Springfield, this section of the interstate has experienced significant increases in crashes and congestion. This project will improve safety, reduce congestion, improve the overall efficiency of the network, and add to the region's economic vitality.

The efforts of the Ozarks Transportation Organization 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



Michael L. Parson

GOVERNOR
STATE OF MISSOURI

April 26, 2022

Secretary Pete Buttigieg
U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT)
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington DC 20590

Dear Mr. Buttigieg,

I am writing to express my support for the FIX I-44 Multimodal Discretionary Grant. This project is essential to providing continued freight movement in Missouri. According to the Missouri Freight Plan, by 2045 the state transportation system is projected to have a 19% increase in freight tonnage and a 57% increase in freight value. Missouri is a distribution hub for the nation with over 300 trucking companies in the state, and Missouri continues to attract new businesses due to our business friendly climate and central location.

The I-44 corridor is a part of the National Highway Freight Network beginning in Wichita Falls and ending in St. Louis. I-44 carries more than 230 million tons of freight worth over \$433 billion annually and more than 1.3 million jobs nationwide are dependent on the I-44 corridor in Missouri. Significant investment on I-44 is already underway with a \$31 million project to replace 13 bridges and rehabilitate six additional bridges, but more is needed.

The I-44 project will provide great value to Missourians by improving safety, accommodating current and projected freight, providing enhanced pedestrian connections, and rebuilding pavement and bridges that are over 50 years old. The project also rebuilds an interchange that serves as a freight bottleneck when traveling to and from Kansas City.

Transportation infrastructure is a key priority for my administration, and this project would be a great asset to Missouri. We hope USDOT will appreciate the value of this investment. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael L. Parson". The signature is stylized with a large, flowing "M" and "P".

Michael L. Parson
Governor of the State of Missouri

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

April 27, 2022

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

This letter comes in support of the Ozarks Transportation Organization, in partnership with MoDOT, Greene County, Missouri, and the City of Springfield, Missouri and their FIX I-44 Multimodal Discretionary Grant application through the United States Department of Transportation.

The proposed improvements through Springfield, Missouri will improve safety, accommodate current and projected freight, provide enhanced pedestrian connections, and rebuild pavement and bridges that are over 50 years old. The project also rebuilds an interchange that serves as a freight bottleneck in traveling to and from Kansas City.

I-44 is a vital freight corridor for the country and for the Springfield metro area of nearly half a million people, where 41% of the traffic is over-the-road freight haulers. Locally, the corridor helps facilitate the movement of goods from a strong manufacturing sector with nationally significant clusters in stainless steel tank manufacturing, remanufacturing, food production, and logistics.

Springfield is the third largest city in Missouri and center of an economic area comprising twenty-seven counties in southern Missouri and northern Arkansas. I-44 is a critical connection for the region to the rest of the United States. These critical improvements will ensure that local drivers, regional freight movement, and tourist traffic to Branson and the Ozarks can safely coexist, while improving connectivity between the north and south sides of I-44.

Again, I support the Ozarks Transportation Organization and their FIX I-44 Multimodal Discretionary Grant application through the United States Department of Transportation. I trust that you will give their application your utmost consideration.

Sincerely,



Billy Long

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-2506

May 17th, 2022

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

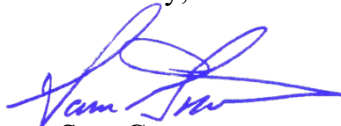
I am writing in support of the Missouri Department of Transportation's (MoDOT) application for funding through the Multimodal Projects Discretionary Grant program. I believe that the Fix I-44 project in Springfield, Missouri to be an excellent candidate to receive this grant.

The Fix I-44 is a comprehensive project that will fix a multitude of problems in this section of the I-44 near Springfield, Missouri. In addition to expanding I-44 to six lanes, this project will also allow increased freight mobility, improving safety and giving better access to first responders in the area. It will also create a more cohesive community improving pedestrian connections by creating pedestrian underpass from Grant Avenue to National Avenue adding as well as a new pedestrian walkway under I-44 that will be widened and include lighting to enhance safety. The Fix I-44 project will also include improvements to fifty-year-old pavement and replacing aging area bridges. The Fix I-44 plan has included a wall that will protect local residents from noise pollution. Finally, this will all be accomplished with new and innovative technologies that will improve safety and flow of traffic.

I believe that MoDOT is well suited for this project. I request your full and fair consideration for this application. In addition, I would ask that you keep my office informed of the progress of the proposal and notify me when a decision regarding the recipients is made.

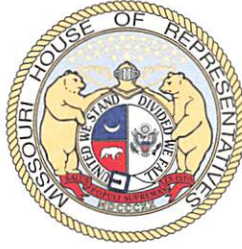
If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Matt Barry at my Kansas City District office at 816.792.3976 or by e-mail at matthew.barry@mail.house.gov

Sincerely,



Sam Graves
Member of Congress

CAPITOL OFFICE
State Capitol
201 West Capitol Avenue
Room 410-B
Jefferson City, MO 65101-6806
Tele: (573) 751-3819
E-Mail: john.black@house.mo.gov



COMMITTEES
Member:
Budget
Higher Education
Utilities

**MISSOURI HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES**

John F. Black

State Representative
District 137

April 28, 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 my support for FIX I-44: Freight, Innovation and Safety for the Ozarks project. The Missouri Department of Transportation is requesting federal funding through the UDOT Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant for improvements to I-44 through Springfield, Missouri that will improve freight mobility, safety, economic vitality, and community connections.

Interstate 44 is a major east-west corridor that begins in Texas, traverses through Oklahoma, and terminates on the eastern border of Missouri at St. Louis. It provides a vital freight corridor for the country and for our metro area of nearly half a million people. 41 percent of traffic on I-44 is over-the-road freight haulers and this number is projected to increase.

The corridor helps facilitate the movement of goods locally from a strong manufacturing sector with nationally significant clusters in stainless steel tank manufacturing, remanufacturing, food production, and logistics. Springfield, the third largest city in Missouri is the center of an economic area comprising twenty-seven counties in southern Missouri and northern Arkansas. I-44 is a critical connection for the region to the rest of the United States.

The FIX I-44 project would add capacity and pedestrian connections, improve pavement condition, and reconfigure a major interchange at Route 13/I-44. These critical improvements will ensure that local drivers, regional freight movement, and tourist traffic to Branson and the Ozarks can safely coexist, while improving connectivity between the north and south sides of I-44.

This project is important to the state of Missouri, the Springfield region, and my legislative district. I urge you to fund this essential freight project on I-44 and State Highway 13.

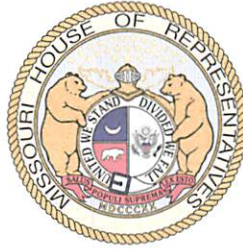
Thank you for your consideration.

Very Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John F. Black". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "J" and "B".

John F. Black
State Representative - District 137
573-751-3819; Room 410-B
Missouri State Capitol
201 W. Capitol Ave
Jefferson City, MO 65101
john.black@house.mo.gov

CAPITOL OFFICE
State Capitol
201 West Capitol Avenue
Jefferson City, MO 65101-6806
Tele: (573) 751-2565
E-Mail:
Tricia.derges@house.mo.gov



Bonnie Linhardt
Legislator Assistant
Bonnie.linhardt@house.mo.gov

MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
TRICIA DERGES
State Representative
District 140

May 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:

I am writing to express my support for FIX I-44: Freight, Innovation and Safety for the Ozarks project. The Missouri Department of Transportation is requesting federal funding through the UDOT Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant for improvements to I-44 through Springfield, Missouri that will improve freight mobility, safety, economic vitality, and community connections.

Interstate 44 is a major east-west corridor that begins in Texas, traverses through Oklahoma, and terminates on the eastern border of Missouri at St. Louis. It provides a vital freight corridor for the country and for our metro area of nearly half a million people. 41 percent of traffic on I-44 is over-the-road freight haulers and this number is projected to increase.

The corridor helps facilitate the movement of goods locally from a strong manufacturing sector with nationally significant clusters in stainless steel tank manufacturing, remanufacturing, food production, and logistics. Springfield, the third largest city in Missouri is the center of an economic area comprising twenty-seven counties in southern Missouri and northern Arkansas. I-44 is a critical connection for the region to the rest of the United States.

The FIX I-44 project would add capacity and pedestrian connections, improve pavement condition, and reconfigure a major interchange at Route 13/I-44. These critical improvements will ensure that local drivers, regional freight movement, and tourist traffic to Branson and the Ozarks can safely coexist, while improving connectivity between the north and south sides of I-44.

This project is important to the state of Missouri, the Springfield region, and my legislative district. I urge you to fund this essential freight project on I-44 and State Highway 13.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Tricia A. Derges".

Representative Tricia A. Derges, MD
140th District

CAPITOL OFFICE
State Capitol
201 West Capitol Avenue
Jefferson City, MO 65101-6806
Tele: (573) 751-0232
E-Mail:
Craig.Fishel@house.mo.gov



COMMITTEES

Chair:
Consent and House Procedure

Vice Chair:
Subcommittee on Appropriations-
General Administration

Member:
Budget
Local Government
Elementary and Secondary Education

MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Craig Fishel

State Representative
District 136

April 28, 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 my support for FIX I-44: Freight, Innovation and Safety for the Ozarks project. The Missouri Department of Transportation is requesting federal funding through the UDOT Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant for improvements to I-44 through Springfield, Missouri that will improve freight mobility, safety, economic vitality, and community connections.

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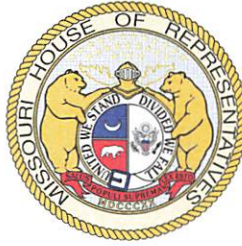
This project is important to the state of Missouri, the Springfield region, and my legislative district. I urge you to fund this essential freight project on I-44 and State Highway 13.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Craig Fishel".
Rep. Craig Fishel, 136th District

CAPITOL OFFICE
State Capitol Rm 109H
201 West Capitol Avenue
Jefferson City, MO 65101-6806
Tele: (573) 751-9809
betsy.fogle@house.mo.gov



COMMITTEES
Budget
Fiscal Review
Emerging Issues
Subcommittee on Appropriations -
Health, Mental Health, and Social
Services

MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Betsy Fogle

State Representative
District 135

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 my support for FIX I-44: Freight, Innovation and Safety for the Ozarks project. The Missouri Department of Transportation is requesting federal funding through the UDOT Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant for improvements to I-44 through Springfield, Missouri that will improve freight mobility, safety, economic vitality, and community connections.

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This project is important to the state of Missouri, the Springfield region, and my legislative district. I urge you to fund this essential freight project on I-44 and State Highway 13.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

CAPITOL OFFICE

State Capitol
201 West Capitol Avenue
Room 410-A
Jefferson City, MO 65101-6806
Tele: (573) 751-2948
E-Mail: bill.owen@house.mo.gov

**COMMITTEES****Member:**

Financial Institutions
Pensions
Downsizing State Government

**MISSOURI HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES****Bill Owen**

State Representative
District 131

April 28, 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:

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This project is important to the state of Missouri, the Springfield region, and my legislative district. I urge you to fund this essential freight project on I-44 and State Highway 13.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill Owen".

Bill Owen
State Representative – District 131
573-751-2948; Room 410-A
Missouri State Capitol
201 W. Capitol Ave.
Jefferson City, MO 65101
Bill.owen@house.mo.gov

CAPITOL OFFICE
Missouri State Capitol
201 West Capitol Avenue
Room 204
Jefferson City, MO 65101



CAPITOL OFFICE
E-Mail:
crystal.quade@house.mo.gov
Tele:
(573) 751-3795

State Representative
Crystal Quade
Minority Caucus Floor Leader
District 132

April 29, 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 my support for FIX I-44: Freight, Innovation and Safety for the Ozarks project. The Missouri Department of Transportation is requesting federal funding through the UDOT Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant for improvements to I-44 through Springfield, Missouri that will improve freight mobility, safety, economic vitality, and community connections.

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This project is important to the state of Missouri, the Springfield region, and my legislative district. I urge you to fund this essential freight project on I-44 and State Highway 13.

Thank you for your consideration.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Crystal Quade", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Crystal Quade
Minority Caucus Floor Leader
District 132

COMMITTEES
Ex-officio member of all committees
of the
Missouri House of Representatives

CAPITOL OFFICE
State Capitol
201 West Capitol Avenue, Room 116-1
Jefferson City, MO 65101-6806
Tele: (573) 751-2210
E-Mail: Alex.Riley@house.mo.gov



COMMITTEES
Chairman:
Joint Committee on Administrative Rules
Vice-Chairman:
General Laws
Member:
Budget
Subcommittee on Appropriations –
Health, Mental Health, and Senior Services
Professional Registration and Licensing
Special Committee on Litigation Reform

MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Alex Riley

State Representative
District 134

May 2, 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 my support for FIX I-44: Freight, Innovation and Safety for the Ozarks project. The Missouri Department of Transportation is requesting federal funding through the UDOT Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant for improvements to I-44 through Springfield, Missouri that will improve freight mobility, safety, economic vitality, and community connections.

Interstate 44 is a major east-west corridor that begins in Texas, traverses through Oklahoma, and terminates on the eastern border of Missouri at St. Louis. It provides a vital freight corridor for the country and for our metro area of nearly half a million people. 41 percent of traffic on I-44 is over-the-road freight haulers and this number is projected to increase.

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This project is important to the state of Missouri, the Springfield region, and my legislative district. I urge you to fund this essential freight project on I-44 and State Highway 13.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

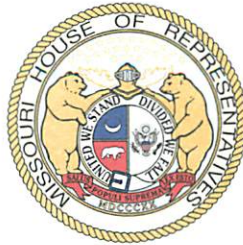
A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Alex Riley".

Alex Riley
Missouri State Representative - 134th District

Jered Taylor
State Representative
District 139

Committees

Special Committee on
Government Oversight (chair)
Emerging Issues
Downsizing State
Government
Legislative Review
Joint Committee on
Government Accountability



CAPITOL OFFICE
State Capitol
201 West Capitol Avenue
Jefferson City, MO 65101-6806
Tele: (573) 751-3833
Jered.Taylor@house.mo.gov

**MISSOURI
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

May 2, 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:

The Missouri Department of Transportation is requesting federal funding through the UDOT Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant for improvements to I-44 through Springfield, Missouri that will improve freight mobility, safety, economic vitality, and community connections. I want to express my support for FIX I-44: Freight, Innovation and Safety for the Ozarks project.

Interstate 44 provides a vital freight corridor for the country and for our metro area of nearly half a million people. 41 percent of traffic on I-44 is over-the-road freight haulers and this number is projected to increase. Interstate 44 is a major east-west corridor that begins in Texas, traverses through Oklahoma, and terminates on the eastern border of Missouri at St. Louis.

I-44 is a critical connection for the region to the rest of the United States. This corridor helps facilitate the movement of goods locally from a strong manufacturing sector with nationally significant clusters in stainless steel tank manufacturing, remanufacturing, food production, and logistics. Springfield, the third largest city in Missouri is the center of an economic area comprising twenty-seven counties in southern Missouri and northern Arkansas.

These critical improvements will ensure that local drivers, regional freight movement, and tourist traffic to Branson and the Ozarks can safely coexist, while improving connectivity between the north and south sides of I-44. The FIX I-44 project would add capacity and pedestrian connections, improve pavement condition, and reconfigure a major interchange at Route 13/I-44. This project is extremely important to the state of Missouri, the Springfield region, and my legislative district. I urge you to fund this essential freight project on I-44 and State Highway 13. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jered Taylor", is written over a horizontal line.

Jered Taylor, District 139



April 28, 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 dedicated support for FIX I-44: Freight, Innovation and Safety for the Ozarks project. The Missouri Department of Transportation is requesting federal funding for improvements to I-44 through Springfield, Missouri that will improve freight mobility, safety, economic vitality, and community connections.

Interstate 44 is a major east-west corridor that begins in Texas, traverses through Oklahoma, and terminates on the eastern border of Missouri at St. Louis. It provides a vital freight corridor for the country and for our metro area of nearly half a million people. The average daily traffic count within the limits of the proposed segment is 51,000 vehicles, 41 percent of which are over-the-road freight haulers.

Locally, the corridor helps facilitate the movement of goods from a strong manufacturing sector with nationally significant clusters in stainless steel tank manufacturing, remanufacturing, food production, and logistics. Springfield is the third largest city in Missouri and center of an economic area comprising twenty-seven counties in southern Missouri and northern Arkansas. I-44 is a critical connection for the region to the rest of the United States.

The project will enhance freight mobility by expanding I-44 to six lanes, reduce delays by replacing the MO 13/I-44 Interchange, improve safety through reduced backups and crashes, and address a state of good repair by replacing 50-year-old pavement and bridges.

This project is important to Amazon because we have an average of 190 tractor trailers going in/out of our site from I-44 via MM Highway on a daily basis which comes out to an average of 5,716 per month. As of this morning we have 1,235 active employees most of which come to work utilizing either I-44 or Republic Road if coming from surrounding towns/cities. I-44 is an important route for our trucks as we get them daily coming from both Eastbound and Westbound I-44. We respectfully request that you give the application favorable consideration.

Sincerely,

Michael Nichols
STL3 Business Partner



**City of
Bolivar**
MISSOURI

345 S. Main Ave. • PO Box 9 • BOLIVAR, MISSOURI 65613
Telephone (417) 326-2489 • FAX (417) 777-7943
www.bolivar.mo.us

May 2, 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,

As the City Administrator for the City of Bolivar, I fully pledge my support for the FIX I-44 transportation project that will make improvements at the intersection of Interstate 44 and North Kansas Expressway (Missouri Highway 13) in Springfield.

As a primary gateway into Springfield from the north, this is definitely an important intersection to Bolivar and Polk County. Bolivar is conveniently located a short 30-minute drive from Springfield, and we serve as a potential choice for companies looking to expand or relocate. The city can boast of its family-friendly atmosphere, great quality of living, and close proximity to two beautiful lakes, a private university and excellent healthcare systems.

In addition to improving current traffic flow concerns, the improvements to the said intersection would open up additional opportunities for Bolivar to grow and attract the high-paying jobs that it takes to improve the overall well-being of its residents. I would be glad to support this project.

Feel free to contact me.

Tracy Slagle
City Administrator, City of Bolivar
417-328-5800
tslagle@bolivar.mo.us



City of Republic

May 5, 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 City of Republic, I am writing to express our dedicated support for FIX I-44: Freight, Innovation and Safety for the Ozarks project. Federal funding for improvements to I-44 through Springfield, Missouri will improve freight mobility, safety, economic vitality, and community connections.

Interstate 44 is a major east-west corridor that begins in Texas, traverses through Oklahoma, and terminates on the eastern border of Missouri at St. Louis. It provides a vital freight corridor for the country and for our metro area of nearly half a million people. The average daily traffic count within the limits of the proposed segment is 51,000 vehicles, 41 percent of which are over-the-road freight haulers.

The FIX I-44 project would add capacity and pedestrian connections, improve pavement condition, and reconfigure a major interchange at Kansas Expressway/Route 13. These critical improvements will ensure that local drivers, regional freight movement, and tourist traffic to Branson and the Ozarks can safely coexist, while improving connectivity between the north and south sides of I-44.

The City of Republic, located next to Springfield, MO, is one of the fastest growing areas in the State of Missouri. The I-44 project fixes a much-needed section of I-44 with other planned projects that connect to State Highway MM in the City of Republic. State Highway MM serves as a primary route to the Springfield-Branson National Airport as well as the Wilson's Creek National Battlefield. The area has seen exponential growth over the past couple of years with major national companies that rely on freight such as Amazon, Convoy of Hope Worldwide Headquarters, McClane Company, and Magellan Midstream Partners. We encourage you to consider the FIX I-44 project and the resulting benefits of safety, pedestrian connectivity, reduced congestion, and improved freight mobility.

Sincerely,

Andrew Nelson, PE
BUILDS Administrator
City of Republic, MO

Cc: David Cameron, City Administrator
Laura Burbridge, City Clerk

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE OZARKS TRANSPORTATION ORGANIZATION AND MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR DISCRETIONARY GRANT APPLICATIONS TO IMPROVE INTERSTATE 44 FROM US HIGHWAY 65 TO KANSAS EXPRESSWAY

WHEREAS, the City of Republic, Missouri, (herein called the "City" and "Republic") is a municipal corporation and Charter City located in Greene County, Missouri, being duly created, organized, and existing under the laws of the State of Missouri; and

WHEREAS, the City supports the regional planning and transportation efforts of partner agencies in working toward overall improvements for the City of Republic and its citizens; and

WHEREAS, federal dollars applied to local priorities in any location, even if outside of the City, provides for more projects to be funded within the City and other surrounding areas; and

WHEREAS, THE Missouri Department of Transportation ("MODOT") and the Ozarks Transportation Organization ("OTO") are working diligently to secure federal funds to be used for repairs and improvements to Interstate-44 from US Highway 65 to Kansas Expressway, in order to ensure adequate safety and capacity; and


WHEREAS, despite that this portion of roadway is not located within the City, it is a crucial element of the overall infrastructure of the entire region, which includes the City, and will result in continued residential and commercial improvements and developments in the City; and

WHEREAS, the City believes that support of the OTO and MODOT in its efforts to secure federal funding for improving this portion of Interstate-44 is in the best interests of the City as it will both directly and indirectly contribute to the continued growth and development of the City for citizens and guests alike.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF REPUBLIC, MISSOURI, AS FOLLOWS:

- Section 1.** That the City Council of the City of Republic is formally in support of the efforts being made by the Ozarks Transportation Organization and the Missouri Department of Transportation to allow discretionary grant applications for the purpose of obtaining federal funding toward repairs and improvements to Interstate-44 and other local priorities.
- Section 2.** The City Administrator, and/or designee(s), on behalf of the City, is authorized to take the necessary steps to implement this Resolution.
- Section 3.** The WHEREAS clauses are hereby specifically incorporated herein by reference.
- Section 4.** This Resolution shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage as provided by law.

PASSED AND APPROVED at a regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Republic, Missouri, this 3rd day of May, 2022.



Matt Russell, Mayor

Attest:



Laura Burbridge, City Clerk

Approved as to Form:



Megan McCullough, City Attorney

Megan McCullough, City Attorney

Final Passage and Vote: The vote was 7 Aye-Deichman, Franklin, Gerke, Mitchell, Pool, Updike, and Wilson. 0 Nay. Motion Carried.



CITY OF WILLARD, MISSOURI

224 W. Jackson Street P.O. Box 187 Willard, MO 65781 417-742-3033 417-742-3080 Fax



April 28th, 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 City of Willard, I would like to express our support for FIX I-44: Freight, Innovation and Safety for the Ozarks project. Federal funding for improvements to I-44 through Springfield, Missouri will improve freight mobility, safety, economic vitality, and community connections.

Interstate 44 is a major east-west corridor that begins in Texas, traverses through Oklahoma, and terminates on the eastern border of Missouri at St. Louis. It provides a vital freight corridor for the country and for our metro area of nearly half a million people.

Locally, the corridor helps facilitate the movement of goods from a strong manufacturing sector with nationally significant clusters in stainless steel tank manufacturing, remanufacturing, food production, and logistics. Springfield is the third largest city in Missouri and center of an economic area comprising twenty-seven counties in southern Missouri and northern Arkansas. I-44 is a critical connection for the region to the rest of the United States.

The City of Willard is a growing community located directly northwest of Springfield, Missouri. The Willard area serves as a unique suburb community with hometown values. The residents of Willard utilize the segments of I-44 for daily commutes to jobs, health care services and local universities in the Springfield metro area. In recent years there has been an increase of national companies locating facilities between the cities of Willard and Republic that utilize I-44 to transport needed freight to other parts of the region. We encourage you to consider the Fix-144 project and the resulting benefits of safety, pedestrian connectivity, reduced congestion, and improved freight mobility.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Samuel Snider', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Mayor Samuel Snider
Willard, Missouri

May 8,, 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 _Christenson Transportation Inc., I am writing to express our dedicated support for FIX I-44: Freight, Innovation and Safety for the Ozarks project. The Missouri Department of Transportation is requesting federal funding for improvements to I-44 through Springfield, Missouri that will improve freight mobility, safety, economic vitality, and community connections.

Interstate 44 is a major east-west corridor that begins in Texas, traverses through Oklahoma, and terminates on the eastern border of Missouri at St. Louis. It provides a vital freight corridor for the country and for our metro area of nearly half a million people.

Locally, the corridor helps facilitate the movement of goods from a strong manufacturing sector with nationally significant clusters in stainless steel tank manufacturing, remanufacturing, food production, and logistics. Springfield is the third largest city in Missouri and center of an economic area comprising twenty-seven counties in southern Missouri and northern Arkansas. I-44 is a critical connection for the region to the rest of the United States.

The FIX I-44 project would add capacity and pedestrian connections, improve pavement condition, and reconfigure a major interchange at Kansas Expressway/Route 13. These critical improvements will ensure that local drivers, regional freight movement, and tourist traffic to Branson and the Ozarks can safely coexist, while improving connectivity between the north and south sides of I-44.

This project is important to our company as we utilize over 225 Trucks and 800 Trailers out of our Strafford ,MO Corporate office. This is a highly congested and accident riddled section of I-44 and any relief from local traffic is greatly received. We encourage you to consider the FIX I-44 project and the resulting benefits of safety, pedestrian connectivity, reduced congestion, and improved freight mobility.

Sincerely,



Barry McGowen
Director of Safety
Christenson Transportation Inc.



April 26, 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 Central States Industrial Equipment & Service, Inc. (CSI), I am writing to express our dedicated support for FIX I-44: Freight, Innovation and Safety for the Ozarks project. The Missouri Department of Transportation is requesting federal funding for improvements to I-44 through Springfield, Missouri that will improve freight mobility, safety, economic vitality, and community connections.

The corridor helps facilitate the movement of goods from a strong manufacturing sector with nationally significant clusters in stainless steel tank manufacturing, remanufacturing, food production, and logistics. Springfield is the third largest city in Missouri and center of an economic area comprising twenty-seven counties in southern Missouri and northern Arkansas. I-44 is a critical connection for the region to the rest of the United States.

The FIX I-44 project would add capacity and pedestrian connections, improve pavement condition, and reconfigure a major interchange at Kansas Expressway/Route 13. These critical improvements will ensure that local drivers, regional freight movement, and tourist traffic to Branson and the Ozarks can safely coexist, while improving connectivity between the north and south sides of I-44.

This project is important to our company for two primary reasons. First of which is employee safety. Many of our two hundred plus employees drive I-44 both to and from work. Routinely, there is congestion and accidents along the route that delay employees' commute. Additionally, our company distributes stainless steel components and manufactured equipment vital to the hygienic processing industry via common carrier and dedicated truck which heavily rely upon I-44. The processing companies CSI serves are essential in providing food, beverage, and pharmaceuticals to the North American market. We respectfully request that you award an MPDG grant to the FIX I-44 project this year.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Joe Reynolds
President



April 28, 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 Dickerson Park Zoo, a division of the Springfield-Greene County Park Board, I am writing to express our dedicated support for FIX I-44: Freight, Innovation and Safety for the Ozarks project. Federal funding for improvements to I-44 through Springfield, Missouri will improve freight mobility, safety, economic vitality, and community connections.

Interstate 44 is a major east-west corridor that begins in Texas, traverses through Oklahoma, and terminates on the eastern border of Missouri at St. Louis. It provides a vital freight corridor for the country and for our metro area of nearly half a million people. Springfield is the third largest city in Missouri and northern Arkansas and center of an economic area comprising twenty-seven counties in southern Missouri and northern Arkansas. I-44 is a critical connection for the region to the rest of the United States.

In 2023, the Zoo will turn 100 years old. Its proximity to the I-44 corridor, as well as the MO 13/I-44 interchange, ensure connectivity to the community and region. A major destination for conservation education, scientific research, state of the art animal hospital, and recreation for families and schools in the surrounding four-state area, it is vital to the Zoo that I-44 maintains its role as an economic corridor connecting the region to the nation.

I have worked at the Zoo for 45 years, and daily I experience the traffic on I-44, MO 13 and at the MO 13/I-44 interchange. Traffic volume on I-44 is heavy, with heavy freight-hauling trucks comprising a major portion of it. Most of the families and school groups that come to the Zoo, or to experience events at the Ozark Empire Fairgrounds, our neighbor to the East, reach these destinations by way of I-44 and MO 13. Zoo attendance has been growing, and the calendar of events at the Fairgrounds, with whom we coordinate for parking and traffic flow, has also grown, further adding to the traffic volume in the area. Increased traffic volume has resulted in frequent backups on I-44 and MO 13 at the MO 13/I-44 interchange. That can be especially acute on weekends due to traffic headed to or from the Zoo or Fairgrounds. Traffic accidents on these routes also cause traffic delays, particularly on I-44 from my personal observations.

The Dickerson Park Zoo is proud of its contributions to animal conservation in the Ozarks, and worldwide, the conservation outreach presentations to as many as 100,000 children and adults throughout the state of Missouri annually, the quality of life experiences we provide for more than 200,000 guests each year, and looks forward to the continued success an improved I-44 can provide. We encourage you to consider the FIX-I44 project and the resulting benefits of safety, pedestrian connectivity, reduced congestion, and improved freight mobility.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mike Crocker".

Mike Crocker
Assistant Parks Director/Zoo Director



May 2, 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:

Please accept this letter as support for the FIX I-44 transportation project that will include improvements to the intersection of Interstate 44 and North Kansas Expressway (Missouri Highway 13).

As Executive Director of the Economic Development Alliance – Bolivar & Polk County, our organization exists to provide a focused approach to business retention and expansion, workforce development, small business and entrepreneurial development and business / industry attraction. We rely heavily on a strong transportation system to accomplish these goals; therefore an efficient and safe traffic route is critical to our community.

With improvements to the above location, the likelihood for positive Economic Development growth would strengthen, and the safety for all citizens would increase.

Thank you for your consideration to improving this designated roadway which would provide a benefit for all of the Southwest Region.

Sincerely,

Gail Noggle
Executive Director
Economic Development Alliance – Bolivar & Polk County
gnoggle@bolivar.mo.us

Industrial Development Authority of Bolivar, MO

345 S. Main Ave., PO Box 9, Bolivar MO 65613

May 2, 2022

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Economic Development Alliance

Gail Noggle,
Executive
Director

Rebecca Baker,
Administrative
Assistant

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 share my support for the proposed improvements being proposed by the FIX I-44 project to improve traffic flow at the intersection of Interstate 44 and North Kansas Expressway (Missouri Highway 13) in Springfield.

As the President of the Board of Directors for the Industrial Development Authority of Bolivar, I would like to encourage the U.S. Department of Transportation to sincerely consider the approval of the FIX I-44 project for the Multimodal Projects Discretionary Grant opportunity, including INFRA and MEGA.

The Industrial Development Authority of Bolivar, MO seeks out opportunities to improve the quality of life for not only the residents of Bolivar but also all of Polk County.

These improvements would be a step in the right direction in accomplishing that and would be a great opportunity to encourage the growth in economic development in our area, as well.

Being positioned just a short drive from Springfield; the Bolivar Business Park could be just the right place for the next expansion or relocation of a large corporation, bringing in new jobs and potentially new residents. Polk County and Bolivar offer small town living yet is still close enough to the many cultural experiences available in Springfield.

Once again, I pledge my support for these improvements to a very important intersection to our area.

Feel free to contact me.


K. Patrick Douglas
President, Industrial Development Authority
E-mail: pat@dhhlawfirm.com
Direct Work Phone: 417-422-4089



May 10, 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 Mid-America Freight Coalition (MAFC) at the University of Wisconsin - Madison, I am writing to express our dedicated support for FIX I-44: Freight, Innovation and Safety for the Ozarks project. The Missouri Department of Transportation is requesting federal funding for improvements to I-44 through Springfield, Missouri that will improve freight mobility, safety, economic vitality, and community connections.

Interstate 44 is a major east-west corridor that begins in Texas, traverses through Oklahoma, and terminates on the eastern border of Missouri at St. Louis. It provides a vital freight corridor for the country and for our metro area of nearly half a million people.

Locally, the corridor helps facilitate the movement of goods from a strong manufacturing sector with nationally significant clusters in stainless steel tank manufacturing, remanufacturing, food production, and logistics. Springfield is the third largest city in Missouri and center of an economic area comprising twenty-seven counties in southern Missouri and northern Arkansas. I-44 is a critical connection for the region to the rest of the United States.

The FIX I-44 project would add capacity and pedestrian connections, improve pavement condition, and reconfigure a major interchange at Kansas Expressway/Route 13. These critical improvements will ensure that local drivers, regional freight movement, and tourist traffic to Branson and the Ozarks can safely coexist, while improving connectivity between the north and south sides of I-44.

This project is important to MAFC and our partner State Departments of Transportation as a key regional freight corridor. I-44 provides regional connectivity and is one of the region's major freight corridors. MAFC will support the Missouri Department of Transportation in this effort by providing a regional perspective on the economic value, connectivity opportunities, the safety and delay related to, and impacting freight movement in Missouri and the region. MAFC will also reach out to all MAFC State partners to identify innovation, infrastructure and operational solutions, and peer state input to ensure the I-44 projects solutions exceed expectation for all stakeholders.

We encourage you to consider the FIX I-44 project and the resulting benefits of safety, pedestrian connectivity, reduced congestion, and improved freight mobility. We appreciate your review of MoDOT's application and hope to hear good news soon!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Soyoung Ahn', written in a cursive style.

Soyoung Ahn, PhD
Professor
Director, Mid-America Freight Coalition
Civil and Environmental Engineering
University of Wisconsin-Madison
(608) 265-9067
sue.ahn@wisc.edu

Ozarks Clean Air ALLIANCE

29 April 2022

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

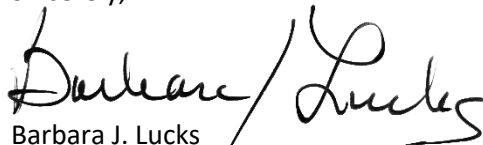
The Ozarks Clean Air Alliance, a 15-county member organization formed in 2008 and charged with improving air quality and managing local participation in the Ozone and PM Advance programs, is pleased to support the *FIX I-44: Freight, Innovation and Safety for the Ozarks* project. This project works to ease congestion through safety improvements. It provides bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure, with trail and neighborhood connectivity. 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 *FIX I-44: Freight, Innovation and Safety for the Ozarks* project accomplishes this through providing improvements on a critical interstate corridor.

We appreciate your consideration of the *FIX I-44: Freight, Innovation and Safety for the Ozarks* project and look forward to the continued efforts to preserve air quality in the Ozarks.

Sincerely,



Barbara J. Lucks
Chair



2022-2023 Board of Directors

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President

Matt Morris
Vice President

Krista Shurtz
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Danny Perches

Ed Powell

Susie Turner

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Mary Kromrey
Executive Director

John Montgomery
Frisco Highline Trail Manager

Susan Mattheis
Office Manager & Conservation Coordinator

Chelsea Russell-Ice
Soft Surface Trails Coordinator

National Recreation Trails

Frisco Highline Trail
Galloway Creek Greenway
South Creek Greenway
Wilson's Creek Greenway

May 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:

Ozark Greenways, Inc. is pleased to support the FIX I-44: Freight, Innovation and Safety for the Ozarks project. The Missouri Department of Transportation is requesting federal funding for improvements to I-44 through Springfield, Missouri that will improve freight mobility, safety, economic vitality, and multi-modal community connections.

Ozark Greenways is the driving force behind the planned 200+ regional trail system to connect and enhance our community as a key component of a robust transportation network for all ages and abilities. The project will increase connections for people who walk and bicycle in a historically distressed and disconnected area of north Springfield, Missouri. It will also include a new trail connection under I-44 at Doling Park to connect the northern Springfield community. This will be the future connection between the Pea Ridge Trail (north of I-44) and the City of Springfield's LINK (on-street bicycle facilities and sidewalks) (south of I-44).

The FIX I-44 project also adds capacity, improves pavement condition, and reconfigures a major interchange at Kansas Expressway/Route 13. These critical improvements will ensure that local drivers of motor vehicles, people walking and bicycling, regional freight movement, and tourist traffic to Branson and the tri-lakes area can safely coexist, while improving connectivity between the north and south sides of I-44, which is a major barrier for people walking and bicycling.

This project is important for overall connectivity. We appreciate your consideration of the Fix I-44 project and look forward to continued efforts to connect communities in the Springfield, MO area.

Sincerely,

Mary Kromrey

Mary Kromrey
Executive Director



May 9, 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 Ozarks Coca-Cola/Dr Pepper Bottling Company, I am writing to express our dedicated support for FIX I-44: Freight, Innovation and Safety for the Ozarks project. The Missouri Department of Transportation is requesting federal funding for improvements to I-44 through Springfield, Missouri that will improve freight mobility, safety, economic vitality, and community connections.

Interstate 44 is a major east-west corridor that begins in Texas, traverses through Oklahoma, and terminates on the eastern border of Missouri at St. Louis. It provides a vital freight corridor for the country and for our metro area of nearly half a million people.

Locally, the corridor helps facilitate the movement of goods from a strong manufacturing sector with nationally significant clusters in stainless steel tank manufacturing, remanufacturing, food production, and logistics. Springfield is the third largest city in Missouri and center of an economic area comprising twenty-seven counties in southern Missouri and northern Arkansas. I-44 is a critical connection for the region to the rest of the United States.

The FIX I-44 project would add capacity and pedestrian connections, improve pavement condition, and reconfigure a major interchange at Kansas Expressway/Route 13. These critical improvements will ensure that local drivers, regional freight movement, and tourist traffic to Branson and the Ozarks can safely coexist, while improving connectivity between the north and south sides of I-44.

This project is very important to our 102-year-old family-owned company as we utilize the Interstate 44 corridor for all our 20,000+ loads per year. Our inbound loads come from all over the country to support our Coca-Cola production and distribution centers. Our outbound loads will service other regional family-owned Coca-Cola Bottlers with the products we produce. We encourage you to consider the FIX I-44 project and the resulting benefits of safety, pedestrian connectivity, reduced congestion, and improved freight mobility.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steven K. Williams".

Steven K. Williams
Vice President of Operations
Ozarks Coca-Cola/Dr Pepper Bottling Company

MUELLER

May 13, 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 Paul Mueller Company and Mueller Transportation Inc., we are writing to express our dedicated support for FIX I-44: Freight, Innovation, and Safety for the Ozarks project. The Missouri Department of Transportation requests federal funding for improvements to I-44 through Springfield, Missouri, that will improve freight mobility, safety, economic vitality, and community connections.

Springfield is the third-largest city in Missouri and the center of an economic area comprising twenty-seven counties in southern Missouri and northern Arkansas. The I-44 corridor facilitates the movement of goods from a strong manufacturing sector with nationally and internationally significant stainless-steel tank manufacturing, re-manufacturing, food production, and logistics. I-44 is a critical connection for the region to the rest of the United States.

The FIX I-44 project would add strategic transport capacity and safe pedestrian connections, improve pavement conditions, and reconfigure an economically significant interchange at Kansas Expressway/Route 13. These critical improvements will ensure that local drivers, regional freight movement, and tourist traffic to Branson and the Ozarks can safely coexist while improving connectivity between the north and south sides of I-44.

This project is vital to us and other local manufacturers who contract Mueller Transportation Inc. to transport their oversized and superload-sized projects out of Springfield, MO. Local businesses are expanding their production areas for economic growth to accommodate larger processing tanks.

In the last five years, MTI has shipped 37 superloads from our Springfield, MO with a revenue value of \$54.3 million with most loads requiring 17'6" height clearance.

With this increased oversized and superload-sized frequency, we request the overhead height be as close to 20' as possible to accommodate future growth. In the last year, Mueller Transportation Inc. quoted 52 superloads that required a similar overhead clearance.

Paul Mueller Company's world headquarters is located in Springfield, MO, with operations in Missouri, Iowa, The Netherlands, Germany, and Vietnam and dealer networks in Canada and South America. Paul Mueller Company employs approximately 1,000 people, and the 2021 consolidated revenue was \$185 million.

We respectfully request that you award an MPDG grant to the FIX I-44 project this year.

Thank you for your consideration,


Joseph Meissert
Vice President


Kenneth Jeffries
Chief Financial Officer



P.O. Box 682
Republic, MO 65738
417.732.5200
republicchamber.com

May 11, 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:

The Republic Area Chamber of Commerce is pleased to express our dedicated support for FIX I-44: Freight, Innovation and Safety for the Ozarks project. Federal funding for improvements to I-44 through Springfield, Missouri will improve freight mobility, safety, economic vitality, and community connections.

Interstate 44 is a major east-west corridor that begins in Texas, traverses through Oklahoma, and terminates on the eastern border of Missouri at St. Louis. It provides a vital freight corridor for the country and for our metro area of nearly half a million people. The average daily traffic count within the limits of the proposed segment is 51,000 vehicles, 41 percent of which are over-the-road freight haulers.

Locally, the corridor helps facilitate the movement of goods from a strong manufacturing sector with nationally significant clusters in stainless steel tank manufacturing, remanufacturing, food production, and logistics. Springfield is the third largest city in Missouri and center of an economic area comprising twenty-seven counties in southern Missouri and northern Arkansas. I-44 is a critical connection for the region to the rest of the United States.

The FIX I-44 project would add capacity and pedestrian connections, improve pavement condition, and reconfigure a major interchange at Kansas Expressway/Route 13. These critical improvements will ensure that local drivers, regional freight movement, and tourist traffic to Branson and the Ozarks can safely coexist, while improving connectivity between the north and south sides of I-44.

Republic is listed as the 11th fastest growing city in the state of Missouri. We strive to develop and maintain progressive collaboration with all community partners to promote, support, and advocate for local businesses and patrons, and support what this project would mean regionally.

We respectfully request your favorable consideration of this application for the FIX I-44 project and the resulting benefits of safety, pedestrian connectivity, reduced congestion, and improved freight mobility.

Sincerely,


Macy Mitchell - Director, Republic Area Chamber of Commerce



Springfield-Branson
NATIONAL AIRPORT

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

April 26, 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 FIX I-44: Freight, Innovation and Safety for the Ozarks project. The Missouri Department of Transportation is requesting federal funding for improvements to I-44 through Springfield, Missouri that will improve freight mobility, safety, economic vitality, and community connections.

SGF is a fast-growing FAA designated small-hub airport serving over 1.2 million annual passengers through four airlines and fifteen direct destinations. The airport handled over thirty-five 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.

Interstate 44 serves as a primary route for the airport and our region. The project would add capacity and pedestrian connections, improve pavement condition, and reconfigure a major interchange at Route 13/I-44. These critical improvements will ensure that local drivers, regional freight movement, and tourist traffic to Branson and the Ozarks can safely coexist, while improving connectivity between the north and south sides of I-44.

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



May 2, 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 our nearly 1500 member businesses, the Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce is pleased to express support for FIX I-44: Freight, Innovation and Safety for the Ozarks project. Federal funding for improvements to Interstate 44 through Springfield, Missouri will improve freight mobility, safety, economic vitality, and community connections.

I-44 is a major east-west corridor that begins in Texas, traverses through Oklahoma, and terminates on the eastern border of Missouri at St. Louis. It provides a vital freight corridor for the country and our own metro area of nearly half a million people. Springfield is not only the third largest city in Missouri but serves as the center of an economic area comprising twenty-seven counties in southern Missouri and northern Arkansas region.

This area of the country is a major transportation hub, in large part due to the critical connections provided for the region and the rest of the United States through I-44. Locally, the corridor helps facilitate the movement of goods from a strong manufacturing sector with nationally significant clusters in stainless steel tank manufacturing, remanufacturing, food production, logistics and more.

The FIX I-44 project would add capacity and pedestrian connections, improve pavement condition, and reconfigure a major interchange at Kansas Expressway/Route 13. These critical improvements will ensure that local drivers, commercial freight movers, and tourist traffic can safely coexist, while improving connectivity between the north and south sides of I-44.

Support for transportation is a top, long-time priority for the Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce, and our continued economic strength depends on it. We respectfully request your consideration of this application for the FIX I-44 project and the resulting benefits of safety, pedestrian connectivity, reduced congestion, and improved freight mobility.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matt Morrow". The signature is stylized with a large, looping "M" and a trailing flourish.

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



May 4th, 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 Steelman Transportation, I am writing to express our dedicated support for FIX I-44: Freight, Innovation and Safety for the Ozarks project. The Missouri Department of Transportation is requesting federal funding for improvements to I-44 through Springfield, Missouri that will improve freight mobility, safety, economic vitality, and community connections.

Interstate 44 is a major east-west corridor that begins in Texas, traverses through Oklahoma, and terminates on the eastern border of Missouri at St. Louis. It provides a vital freight corridor for the country and for our metro area of nearly half a million people.

Locally, the corridor helps facilitate the movement of goods from a strong manufacturing sector with nationally significant clusters in stainless steel tank manufacturing, remanufacturing, food production, and logistics. Springfield is the third largest city in Missouri and center of an economic area comprising twenty-seven counties in southern Missouri and northern Arkansas. I-44 is a critical connection for the region to the rest of the United States.

The FIX I-44 project would add capacity and pedestrian connections, improve pavement condition, and reconfigure a major interchange at Kansas Expressway/Route 13. These critical improvements will ensure that local drivers, regional freight movement, and tourist traffic to Branson and the Ozarks can safely coexist, while improving connectivity between the north and south sides of I-44.

This is an important project for our company. We are very heavy users of both I-44 and Route 13. One of the major issues we face is the back up of Route 13 south bound at the I-44 interchange. This back up costs our company and drivers valuable time when transporting goods in and out of the Springfield Area. We encourage you to consider the FIX I-44 project and the resulting benefits of safety, pedestrian connectivity, reduced congestion, and improved freight mobility.

Sincerely,

Wayne Sheets
President

Steelman Transportation

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Wayne Sheets', is written over a horizontal line.

The Daniel Co. of Springfield
3725 W Division St
Springfield Mo 65803
417-869-7511
danieltrucking.com

May 9, 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 Daniel Co. of Springfield, I am writing to express our dedicated support for FIX I-44: Freight, Innovation and Safety for the Ozarks project. The Missouri Department of Transportation is requesting federal funding for improvements to I-44 through Springfield, Missouri that will improve freight mobility, safety, economic vitality, and community connections.

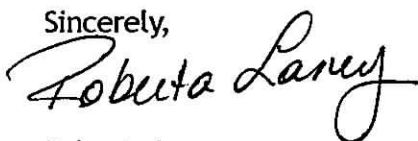
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The FIX I-44 project would add capacity and pedestrian connections, improve pavement condition, and reconfigure a major interchange at Kansas Expressway/Route 13. These critical improvements will ensure that local drivers, regional freight movement, and tourist traffic to Branson and the Ozarks can safely coexist, while improving connectivity between the north and south sides of I-44.

This project is important to our company. We have been in the transportation industry, specifically over the road interstate trucking, since the 1940's. I-44 is a major route for trucks from all over the country as well as used daily by our local drivers transferring product from one side of town to the other for food manufacturing. We encourage you to consider the FIX I-44 project and the resulting benefits of safety, pedestrian connectivity, reduced congestion, and improved freight mobility.

Sincerely,



Roberta Laney
President



May 5, 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 Trailiner Corp., I am writing to express our dedicated support for FIX I-44: Freight, Innovation and Safety for the Ozarks project. The Missouri Department of Transportation is requesting federal funding for improvements to I-44 through Springfield, Missouri that will improve freight mobility, safety, economic vitality, and community connections.

Interstate 44 is a major east-west corridor that begins in Texas, traverses through Oklahoma, and terminates on the eastern border of Missouri at St. Louis. It provides a vital freight corridor for the country and for our metro area of nearly half a million people.

Locally, the corridor helps facilitate the movement of goods from a strong manufacturing sector with nationally significant clusters in stainless steel tank manufacturing, remanufacturing, food production, and logistics. Springfield is the third largest city in Missouri and center of an economic area comprising twenty-seven counties in southern Missouri and northern Arkansas. I-44 is a critical connection for the region to the rest of the United States.

The FIX I-44 project would add capacity and pedestrian connections, improve pavement condition, and reconfigure a major interchange at Kansas Expressway/Route 13. These critical improvements will ensure that local drivers, regional freight movement, and tourist traffic to Branson and the Ozarks can safely coexist, while improving connectivity between the north and south sides of I-44.

As a long-haul trucking company headquartered in Springfield, MO, nearly all of the shipments we haul come through Springfield using I-44. Travel on I-44 in our area is hindered by the high traffic volume and the limitation of only having 4 lanes—especially through the metro area. All 160 trucks that haul for us travel this stretch of road multiple times each week, representing \$50+ million dollars of revenue each year. We encourage you to consider the FIX I-44 project and the resulting benefits of safety, pedestrian connectivity, reduced congestion, and improved freight mobility.

Sincerely,

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

Amber Edmondson
President & CEO

Traffic Incident Management

Emergency Medical - Fire - Law Enforcement



Traffic Operations - Media - Towing & Recovery

Ozarks Transportation Organization

May 2, 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:

The Ozark Transportation Organization's *Traffic Incident Management* (TIM) Committee offers its full support for the *Fix I-44: Freight, Innovation and Safety in the Ozarks* Multimodal Projects Discretionary Grant application. This project will reduce accidents along I-44 and at the I-44/MO 13 interchange, and it will provide additional roadway capacity when lanes must be closed during incident response activities. Combined, these improvements will make it safer for our region's first responders and will reduce the negative secondary impacts of major incidents.

The *Fix I-44: Freight, Innovation and Safety in the Ozarks* grant application includes several elements that will improve roadway safety and reduce risk for first responders working major incidents. The concrete median barriers will provide an even stronger barrier against dangerous crossover incidents along the truck-heavy I-44 corridor. The planned flyover and expanded westbound ramp improvements at I-44 and MO 13 will reduce the traffic queues that extend onto mainline I-44 and stretch for miles up MO 13. Finally, the added capacity along I-44 will help maintain traffic flow when lanes have to be closed for incident response activities.

Again, the TIM committee is fully supportive of the *Fix I-44* grant application. We look forward to the many safety improvements included in this important project.

Respectfully,

Ben Arnall

Ben Arnall
OTO TIM Committee Chair
SW Incident Management Coordinator
Missouri Department of Transportation



3769 E Evergreen St
Springfield, MO 65803

May 10, 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 Wilson Logistics, Inc, I am writing to express our dedicated support for FIX I-44: Freight, Innovation and Safety for the Ozarks project. The Missouri Department of Transportation is requesting federal funding for improvements to I-44 through Springfield, Missouri that will improve freight mobility, safety, economic vitality, and community connections.

Interstate 44 is a major east-west corridor that begins in Texas, traverses through Oklahoma, and terminates on the eastern border of Missouri at St. Louis. It provides a vital freight corridor for the country and for our metro area of nearly half a million people.

Locally, the corridor helps facilitate the movement of goods from a strong manufacturing sector with nationally significant clusters in stainless steel tank manufacturing, remanufacturing, food production, and logistics. Springfield is the third largest city in Missouri and center of an economic area comprising twenty-seven counties in southern Missouri and northern Arkansas. I-44 is a critical connection for the region to the rest of the United States.

The FIX I-44 project would add capacity and pedestrian connections, improve pavement condition, and reconfigure a major interchange at Kansas Expressway/Route 13. These critical improvements will ensure that local drivers, regional freight movement, and tourist traffic to Branson and the Ozarks can safely coexist, while improving connectivity between the north and south sides of I-44.

This project is important to our company – as we are a Springfield MO, I-44 frontage, based carrier. Both our local and long-haul drivers, as well as all of our admin employees utilize I-44 daily. We encourage you to consider the FIX I-44 project and the resulting benefits of safety, pedestrian connectivity, reduced congestion, and improved freight mobility.

Sincerely,

Ryan Farrell
Wilson Logistics, Inc,
President/CFO