

CITY OF WILLARD, MISSOURI

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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,

Mayor Samuel Snider
Willard, Missouri