



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