



*County of* **GREENE** *State of Missouri*

GREENE COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT  
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BOB DIXON  
Presiding Commissioner

RUSTY MACLACHLAN  
Commissioner 1<sup>st</sup> District

JOHN C. RUSSELL  
Commissioner 2<sup>nd</sup> District

RICK ARTMAN  
Administrator

May 2, 2022

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

RE: "Fix I-44" INFRA Grant Application  
Greene County Letter of Support

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

On behalf of the Greene County Commission, we are writing to express our full support of the "Fix I-44" INFRA Grant application submittal in partnership with the Ozarks Transportation Organization, Missouri Department of Transportation, and the City of Springfield. Our cooperative pursuit of this federal funding opportunity is driven by our region's shared goal to address traffic capacity issues currently impacting regional travel along Interstate 44 within the Springfield area.

The Interstate 44 corridor serves as the main east/west transportation thoroughfare within Greene County, and it plays a vital role as part of our regional and national freight transportation system carrying nearly 20 million vehicles per year, including nearly 30% freight haulers. I-44 is also a major component of our nation's interstate system which facilitates significant economic activity as well as serving our national security interests.

Currently, there is a significant need to add additional travel lanes to I-44 throughout the Springfield area in order to address increasing travel delays, to provide greater mobility for both local and regional travelers, and to improve traffic safety along this high volume travel corridor. Additionally, we recognize the importance of addressing the long traffic queues of vehicles backed up onto I-44, and the increasing traffic delays of up to 20 minutes that are routinely experienced by drivers at the existing interchange of I-44 and MO 13. Providing additional lanes would improve safety for motorists by lessening some of the issues associated with "merging" vehicles into two lanes rather than one when conducting maintenance operations, law enforcement stops, and during crash remediation procedures.

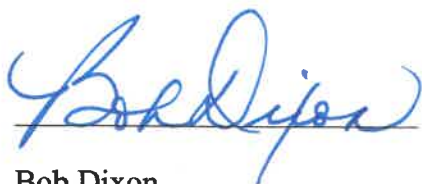
The Greene County Commission understands that these proposed transportation improvements will require extensive modifications to the existing I-44 right-of-way, roadbed, and bridges. These modifications will come at a price tag above and beyond what any single local agency can invest on its own. Greene County

has a rich history of working through local partnerships to reach a common goal of bringing transportation improvements to our area, and we fully support the proposed improvements identified within this INFRA Grant application.

As a demonstration of Greene County's commitment and support for the project, we are committing to appropriate a sum of \$1,000,000.00 dollars in FY2025 to MoDOT through a cooperative agreement to aid in constructing this project through the INFRA Grant.

Therefore, we urge the Department to give the project full consideration as a project of national significance. Given the many public benefits associated with these proposed improvements, it is our hope that you will support this request for INFRA Grant funding. Thank you for your consideration.

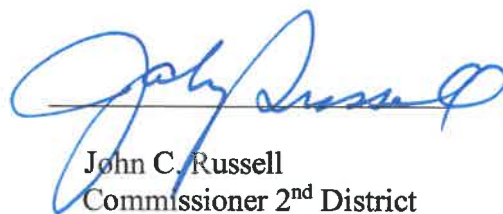
Sincerely,



Bob Dixon  
Presiding Commissioner



Rusty MacLachlan  
Commissioner 1<sup>st</sup> District



John C. Russell  
Commissioner 2<sup>nd</sup> District