



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", with a stylized flourish at the end.

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