



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