

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-2507

April 27, 2022

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

This letter comes in support of the Ozarks Transportation Organization, in partnership with MoDOT, Greene County, Missouri, and the City of Springfield, Missouri and their FIX I-44 Multimodal Discretionary Grant application through the United States Department of Transportation.

The proposed improvements through Springfield, Missouri will improve safety, accommodate current and projected freight, provide enhanced pedestrian connections, and rebuild pavement and bridges that are over 50 years old. The project also rebuilds an interchange that serves as a freight bottleneck in traveling to and from Kansas City.

I-44 is a vital freight corridor for the country and for the Springfield metro area of nearly half a million people, where 41% of the traffic is 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. These critical improvements will ensure that local drivers, regional freight movement, and tourist traffic to Branson and the Ozarks can safely coexist, while improving connectivity between the north and south sides of I-44.

Again, I support the Ozarks Transportation Organization and their FIX I-44 Multimodal Discretionary Grant application through the United States Department of Transportation. I trust that you will give their application your utmost consideration.

Sincerely,



Billy Long