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April 16, 2021

The Honorable Billy Long
United States House of Representatives
2454 Rayburn HOB
Washington D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Long,

The last two years have created tremendous growth for the City of Republic. Construction projects highlight the resilience and strength of our people and the economy amid the pandemic. Some of the larger projects include Convoy of Hope, Amazon, Andy's Frozen Custard, McLane Trucking expansion, and the addition of over 1300 Residential units in the preliminary platting phase. These projects represent investment into our community, over 1,000 new jobs, and opportunity for not only growth in our community but the entire southwest region of Missouri.

Republic continues to see tremendous growth and with that our list of transportation needs continues to expand. Working with our regional partners including MODOT, OTO, Springfield Chamber of Commerce, and the State Department of Economic Development we have identified the Highway MM corridor as an area of tremendous need but also tremendous opportunity.

With the Amazon fulfillment center to be operational by August of this year, the MM corridor will need additional capacity improvements to support both the new facility and the ongoing economic development and growth along the corridor. The City has prepared an engineering estimate in amount of \$9.2M for this project and has identified a funding gap of \$3.2M necessary to deliver the project. As project sponsor, The City of Republic is willing to carry out the project and will ask the City Council to approve the funding obligation through official action within the expected life of the next surface transportation reauthorization bill and according to the requirements for funding in said bill.

We appreciate your consideration and continued support of our community and the State of Missouri.

Sincerely,


David Cameron
City Administrator
City of Republic Missouri

Cc: Laura Burbridge, City Clerk

MM Highway in City of Republic

Type of Project: Highway

Name of the Project: MM Highway Expansion from I-44 to US 60

Location of the Project: MM, Republic, MO 65738, MO-7 Congressional District

Project Sponsor: City of Republic, 213 N. Main, Republic MO 65738. RepublicMo.gov

Sponsor Point of Contact: Andrew Nelson, Community Development Director. ANelson@republicmo.gov
(417) 234-4114

Project Description: MM Highway Expansion from US 60 to I-44 to include five lanes, a railroad overpass and relocated road and intersection. MM is an essential freight corridor for Southwest Missouri as it connects the Springfield-Branson National Airport with I-44, US 360, and US 60. A new Amazon distribution facility is opening August 2021 with planned site adjacent improvements. Additional needed improvements will expand Highway MM between US 60 and I-44 to accommodate the increased freight from Amazon and other existing and planned developments. This project can be completed in phases.

Project Benefits:

- Safety Improvements to reduce freight and passenger vehicle conflicts
 - Reduced emissions by getting traffic moving
 - Improved freight times to I-44 and US 360
-
- Phase I: Four lanes from US 360 to I-44 - \$9.2 million (not in STIP/TIP)(Project Sponsor: City of Republic)
 - Phase II: Highway realignment from US 360 to US 60 - \$28 million **(Submitted for Draft 2022-2026 STIP)** (Project Sponsor: MoDOT)

Amount Requested: \$3.2 million

Total Project Cost - \$37.2 million

Funding Plan - \$28 Million (MoDOT STIP to be added July 2021)
\$6 million (DED/MoDOT Cost Share Funds requested)
\$3.2 million (Congressionally directed funding requested)

Sources of Funding: 20% match from City of Republic for Phase I and MoDOT State Transportation Revenues for Phase II. If award does not fully fund the project, the City of Republic is committed to using the State Infrastructure Bank to finance the remainder with repayment over 10 years.

OTO will commit to programming the funding to ensure project completion.

Project Phase: Construction

Expected Obligation Date: January 2025

Estimated Award Date: March 2025

Estimated Project Completion Date: August 2027

NEPA Category of Action: Categorical Exclusion 2

Status of Environmental Review: Pre-Review

Public Comment Opportunities: During the development of the OTO metropolitan transportation plan, the public was specifically asked for input on needed projects. OTO has a specific website giveusyourinput.org where the public can comment at any time. Social media sites are continuously accepting public input. In addition, input is requested during the development of the annual OTO TIP.

Prior Federal Funding: None

Prior U.S. DOT Discretionary Grant Requests: 2017 TIGER Grant. Was not selected.

TIP/STIP Status: Yes. MoDOT delayed publishing a Statewide Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP) in 2020 due to COVID-19. The MoDOT STIP will be approved in July 2021. This project is planned for a FY25 contractor award leading to construction in FY25. **STIP # 8S0836 and 8S0836B. LINK TO STIP: Available after July 1, 2021.**

The OTO has also included the project in the Transportation Improvement Program in 2022. **TIP #RP1703 and #RP1704. LINK TO TIP Available after August 1, 2021.** The project is included in the OTO Metropolitan Transportation Plan.

MoDOT will administer Phase II the project and has a long history of delivering projects on time and under budget. You can be confident that funds will be obligated during FY25.

The City of Republic will administer Phase I of the project and plans to obligate funding during FY23.





OZARKS TRANSPORTATION ORGANIZATION
A METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

2208 W. CHESTERFIELD BOULEVARD, SUITE 101, SPRINGFIELD, MO 65807
417-865-3047

CERTIFICATION FOR INCLUSION IN THE OZARKS TRANSPORTATION ORGANIZATION TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

The Ozarks Transportation Organization, which is the Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Springfield, Missouri Urbanized Area, hereby certifies that upon award of the Congressionally Directed Federal Highway Administration Funding, relocating and expanding MM Highway (I-44 to US 60) will be included in the Transportation Improvement Program. The OTO recognizes the importance of this project and welcomes the federal investment in the region.

Signature

04-15-2021

Date

Sara J. Fields
Executive Director
Ozarks Transportation Organization



OZARKS TRANSPORTATION ORGANIZATION

A METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

2208 W. CHESTERFIELD BOULEVARD, SUITE 101, SPRINGFIELD, MO 65807
417-865-3047

April 15, 2021

The Honorable Billy Long
United States House of Representatives
2454 Rayburn HOB
Washington D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Long:

I would like to request your consideration for congressionally directed funding to the **MM Highway Relocation and Expansion in Republic, Missouri**. The MM relocation has long been in the planning stage due to the current at-grade rail crossing which causes traffic to backup onto US 60. With the current construction of the new Amazon distribution facility, the Convoy of Hope warehouse, and other developments, in addition to existing business, the current two-lane roadway will no longer be able to handle the demands of traffic.

The Ozarks Transportation Organization (the Springfield Area MPO) supports this project as a top priority for the region. The Springfield metropolitan area consists of seven cities and two counties that work together to determine the highest priority needs for the region.

The Missouri Department of Transportation and the Ozarks Transportation Organization are both in the process of updating the STIP/TIP. This update will be completed this summer. The OTO had several meetings over the winter to prioritize projects with MoDOT and MM was selected for project funding. The Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission will be finalizing the STIP document in July after a public comment period.

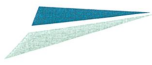
We are proud of the partnerships among different agencies that will lead to improved safety and the ability to accommodate the continued growth of the region.

Thank you for considering this much needed project.

Sincerely,

Sara Fields





Springfield-Branson
NATIONAL AIRPORT

2300 n airport blvd ste 100
springfield missouri 65802
p 417.868.0500 f 417.868.0501

April 16, 2021

The Honorable Billy Long
United States House of Representatives
2454 Rayburn HOB
Washington D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Long,

I am writing to express my strong support for the list of Transportation Priorities developed by the Ozarks Transportation Organization (OTO). We work closely with the OTO as a participant agency and agree that the list represents a regionally agreed to list of transportation priorities. It was developed using a data driven approach that includes public input and community leader discussion. These priorities include:

- US 60 Improvements in the OTO Urban Area
- I-44 Improvements in the OTO Urban Area
- US 65 Improvements in Christian County
- MM Highway in the City of Republic
- Regional Trail Expansion including the Wilson's Creek Boulevard Trail and the Chadwick Flyer Trail
- Electric Buses for City Utilities
- Grant Street Pedestrian Underpass

The Airport recognizes the need for a strong integrated multimodal transportation system. This list considers pedestrians, transit, and highway users. Proposed projects come from two counties and seven cities, two transit providers, and a public university. If completed, they will improve safety, accommodate growth, improve congestion, and promote economic develop for our region.

The Springfield-Branson National Airport would like to request your support for Congressionally Directed funds for these important transportation projects. We look forward to your partnership in making these projects a reality.

Thank you for your consideration and please feel free to contact me if I can be of further assistance.

Respectfully,

Brian C. Weiler, A.A.E.
Director of Aviation



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Amazon road improvements could signal start of more changes along State Highway MM in Republic

By [Joe Hickman](#)

Published: Nov. 6, 2020 at 6:21 PM CST

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SPRINGFIELD, Mo. (KY3) -

The new Amazon warehouse in Republic is not only an economic boost for the community, but could be the start of a long-awaited project to improve the main thoroughfare in that area, Highway MM.

"I have a lot of people tell me they wish this road was wider," said Shirley McLaren, who runs the Brookline Post Office on Highway MM right across from what will be Amazon's new warehouse expected to up and running by the holiday season of 2021.

And thanks to Amazon, those people will be getting their wish, although on a small scale at first.



Amazon is shelling out \$4.4 million to do something that the city of Republic and MoDOT couldn't afford to do, which is widening about a half-mile stretch of State Highway MM to at least three lanes from James River Freeway to just south of the warehouse at Farm Road 160 and installing stop lights at the James River Freeway exits, at Sawyer Road on the warehouse's north side and at Haile Street next to the post office which will be the main entrance into the Amazon property.

"I think it's much needed," McLaren said of the road changes. "Especially with all the new construction because there's a lot of congestion that goes through here. Trucks coming, people having to wait."

And local officials are hoping that Amazon's bankrolling of the State Highway MM changes will be the impetus to get the ball rolling on the rest of this mostly two-lane highway that has seen the traffic count steadily increase over the years.

"MM has been a road we've been looking at for a long time because of existing problems that we're having," explained Andrew Nelson, the Director of Republic's BUILDS Department. "We're somewhere on a daily about 9,000 (cars). When Amazon opens their door we're expecting increases of 20 to 30 percent."

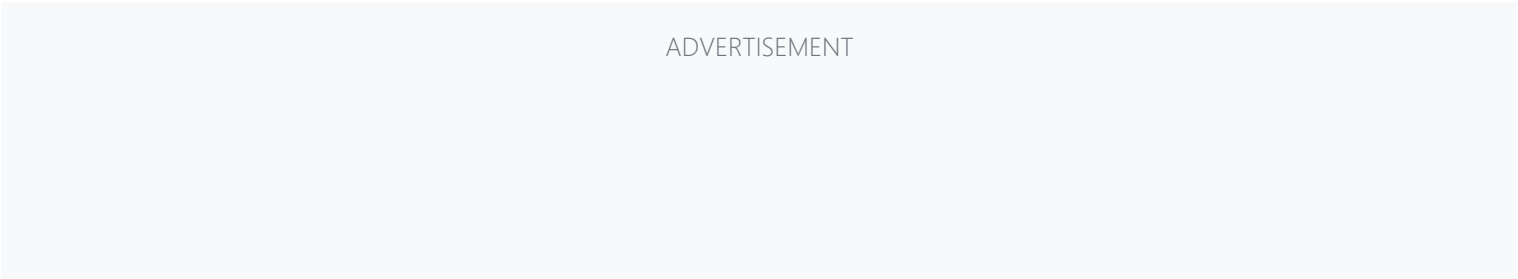
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The city has been working with MoDOT and other organizations over the years to see what can be done to improve the highway but the roadblock has always been a lack of funding available. Now that Amazon has done its part, Nelson said there's an urgency to looking at all avenues of funding possibilities because the increased traffic near the new warehouse will obviously cause congestion along other sections of the road as well.

One of the first priorities would be at the intersection of MM and U.S. 60 that runs west out of Springfield (Sunshine Street). The stretch of MM just north of the Highway 60 intersection includes a railroad crossing and a sharp turn that slows traffic plus an entry into a Kum and Go store that can cause back-ups.

"We know that intersection is failing," Nelson said. "And because of the development around it I don't think it's an ideal place for the new alignment of MM."

So the solution would probably involve moving the intersection entirely and Nelson said the goal in finding a new location would also involve finding land owners who could see the benefit in being right next to a major thoroughfare.

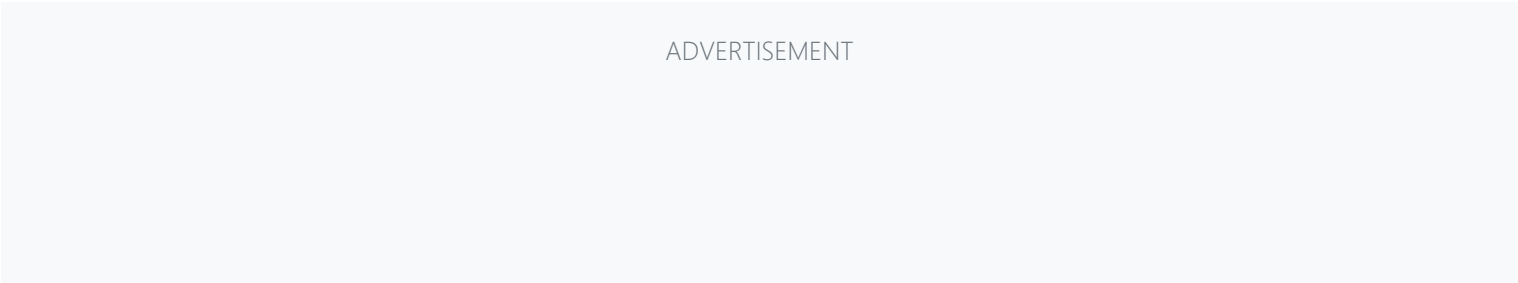


"We want to try and align MM in a better way that serves both economic development and just overall flow of traffic north-to-south and east-to-west through Republic," he said.

When pressed for a timeline on the other improvements to State Highway MM Nelson said everything depends on the funding.

And when asked what the dream scenario would be for improving the roadway?

"I think everyone agrees that a north-south corridor from I-44 even in to Christian County is important for the region," Nelson said. "So in our lifetime it's (Highway MM) probably three-lane from I-44 all the way to ZZ out by Republic High School."



For now though only Amazon’s improvements are a certainty and those are scheduled to be completed by the time the warehouse opens next year.

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City of Republic - Press Releases

Posted on: August 25, 2020

Republic welcomes new Convoy of Hope world distribution center

Convoy of Hope is constructing the 230,000 square foot facility on W. Carnahan Street near James River Freeway and Route MM.



REPUBLIC, MO - City leaders are excited to welcome a new development project that'll have a worldwide impact. Convoy of Hope has chosen the City of Republic as the location for its new distribution center and warehouse. The faith-based organization, headquartered in Springfield, provides humanitarian relief and disaster response services across the globe.

Construction has started on the project following months of planning and talks with city leaders. The new 230,000 square foot facility, being constructed on W. Carnahan Street near James River Freeway, will house food items and products needed for relief operations. It'll also serve as the organization's international transportation hub. Convoy of Hope says the new center will allow it to expand its outreach and serve more people than ever.

David Cameron, City Administrator, stated, "The City of Republic is honored to partner with Convoy of Hope to move its warehousing operations to the community. We look forward to having this life-changing organization as part of our family."

Convoy of Hope is one of many significant developments currently taking shape in Republic. Over the last few months,

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city leaders have been in talks with several large-scale commercial developers interested in the Highway MM corridor. As a result, multiple proposed projects are now in the works. The city is looking forward to sharing more details very soon!

For more information, or to request an interview, contact Michael Landis, Public Information Officer, at 417.380.7697 or mlandis@republicmo.com.



Next =>

Republic fire chief on hand for Governor Parson's signing of laws enhancing emergency services

Other News in City of Republic - Press Releases

Republic fire chief on hand for Governor Parson's signing of laws enhancing emergency services

Posted on: July 6, 2018



Have-A-Blast event will result in road closures in Republic on Friday, June 29

Posted on: June 22, 2018



Republic sees 6.25% increase in sales tax revenues during first half of 2018

Posted on: June 15, 2018



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Housing and new businesses booming in Republic

By [Sara Forhertz](#)

Published: Sep. 29, 2020 at 3:33 PM CDT

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REPUBLIC, Mo. (KY3) - We’ve long done stories on growth in Christian County.. namely with Ozark and Nixa. But you can now add Republic to the list. Construction is going on all over Republic. At highway 60 and highway M, just as you enter Republic from Springfield, there are 110 apartment units going up. But on the bottom floor, it’ll be restaurants, shops and stores.

The scene is multiplied all over the city.

The sights and sounds of earth movers are abuzz. On Tuesday, land movers were making the way for a huge



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Lumber is moving elsewhere in Republic. More than 1,000 homes are either platted, planned or under construction.

"People are realizing that Republic is kind of a cool place and there's a lot more coming in," said Vinita Williams. She just moved to Republic from Ozark, and says she got better bang for the buck.

"We liked this area, we liked this particular builder."

Now, she's becoming a regular at Republic's new additions. There have been 20 new businesses completed since January 2020 alone, and even more are under construction.

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"We did not plan it, but we actually ended up doing a lot more business in Republic because of that," said Williams.

And that is what city leaders are banking on for continued growth. The more that is built, the more people who will come.

"People want to live somewhere where they have restaurants, where they have stores. They don't want to have to drive forever. So it's really a whole package of things that's really causing a lot of people to look at Republic and say, this is a cool place to call home," Landis said.

Of course, Republic has good highway access as well.

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Landis says what first kicked this off was a shift in mindset about 4 or 5 years ago. The city then decided to make it as easy as possible on home builders and commercial developers to move to Republic, instead of wanting to remain small and a bedroom community like previously.

A Cox Health clinic is also going in on the corner of Highway 60 and M, as well.


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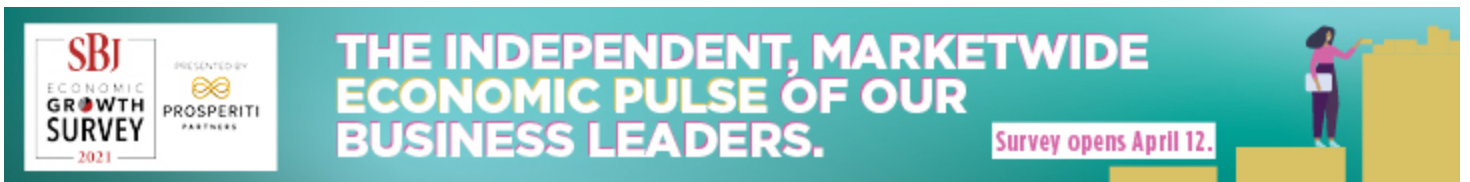


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SBJ FILE PHOTO

Construction equipment is shown on the development site in late September.

Amazon, Republic confirm development plans



BY: GEOFF PICKLE, WEB EDITOR | gpickle@sbj.net (<mailto:gpickle@sbj.net>)

Posted online November 5, 2020 | 12:30 pm

Amazon.com Inc. (Nasdaq: AMZN) and the city of Republic this morning confirmed the development of a distribution and fulfillment center southwest of Springfield.

The 1.3-million-square-foot project is slated to create more than 500 full-time jobs, according to a news release. Officials have set a 2021 launch date.

"We are excited for our future in Missouri and for what this means for our customers across the state as we continue to grow," said Alicia Boler Davis, Amazon's vice president of global customer fulfillment, in the release. "We'd like to thank the community of Republic and local and state leaders for their strong support in making this project possible."

Springfield Business Journal previously confirmed (<https://sbj.net/stories/republic-lands-amazon-public-records-confirm,71449?>) Amazon's entry into Republic with a Sunshine Law public records request. However, Amazon and city of Republic officials

declined to confirm the plans until this morning's news release.

Amazon officials said the new jobs would start at \$15 per hour in wages, along with benefits such as medical, vision and dental insurance, and a 50% match on its 401(k) plan. Republic officials said Amazon would become the city's top employer with the new facility.

"Amazon's expansion in Republic and the 500 new jobs it will create will greatly impact the local community and Missouri as a whole," Gov Mike Parson said in the release.

"We are proud to see companies like Amazon growing in our state and creating more opportunities for our citizens."

Officials with the city of Republic previously cited a nondisclosure agreement for declining to confirm Amazon's plans. The city teased a "massive" distribution center and warehouse project in late September, without naming the tenant.

SBJ previously reported Atlanta-based Seefried Industrial Properties Inc. is serving as developer for the project in the Garton Business Park.

Republic officials also said transportation infrastructure improvements are in the works as the Amazon facility is expected to increase traffic, according to a news release.

In addition to Amazon, a large-scale Convoy of Hope distribution center (<https://sbj.net/stories/convoy-of-hope-plans-new-distribution-center-in-republic,70603?>) is in the works in Republic.

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Parson: more than 500 Amazon jobs heading to southwest Missouri's Republic

NOVEMBER 5, 2020 BY [BRIAN HAUSWIRTH](#)

(Story updated with information about incentives)

Seattle-based Amazon has announced that it will open its first fulfillment center in one of the fastest-growing towns in southwest Missouri.

Governor Mike Parson made the announcement Thursday afternoon, while briefing Capitol reporters in Jefferson City. The governor says the facility will be located in Republic.

"The new fulfillment center, which is expected to launch in 2021, will create over 500 new jobs, full-time jobs, with industry-leading pay and comprehensive benefits," Parson says.



Seattle-based Amazon is opening its first fulfillment center in southwest Missouri's

Republic, which has about 17,000 residents, is southwest of Springfield. It's the second largest city in Greene County, and has good transportation access nearby with I-44, Highway 60 and the future I-244. BNSF Railway also serves that region.

"This is great news for our state as we continue making progress with the economic recovery," says Parson.

Republic spokesman Mike Landis tells Missourinet that Amazon has informed the city that the starting pay for fulfillment center workers will be \$15 an hour. However, the rate of pay increases from there, depending on the position, such as managerial or supervisory positions.

Republic is also near the Springfield-Branson National Airport. Once it opens next year, Amazon will be the second-largest employer in Republic, behind the school district.

Other major employers in town include Walmart, Red Monkey Foods, Heart of America beverage, and Watson metal masters.

Missouri Department of Economic Development (DED) Director Rob Dixon tells Missourinet that the state did not provide incentives for this project, although DED and the state Department of Transportation (MoDOT) did work with the community on the development process for some of the initial site work.

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