



# OZARKS TRANSPORTATION ORGANIZATION

A METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

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

March 30, 2021

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

Dear Congressman Long,

I am respectfully submitting Ozarks Transportation Organization's request for Community Project Funding in the amount of \$3,000,000 for Grand Street Pedestrian Underpass and Streetscape Improvements, in Springfield, Missouri. This project enjoys the strong support of the City of Springfield, Greene County, Missouri State University, the Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce, and other partners in our region.

To avoid conflicts involving pedestrians and vehicles, a Grand Street tunnel was constructed in the 1980s. That facility is not accessible by persons with disabilities. Over the years, pedestrian crossings between parking lots and Missouri State University's campus using the Grand Street tunnel have increased significantly due to the growth of Missouri State University's campus, from roughly 10,000 students in the 1980s to more than 24,000 students during the 2020-2021 academic year. Traffic counts also have risen significantly due to the growth of Springfield and the surrounding area.

To address these safety concerns and improve accessibility of surface transportation facilities, the Grand Street Pedestrian Underpass and Streetscape Improvements project to be administered by Ozarks Transportation Organization, in conjunction with Missouri State University and the City of Springfield, will extend the Grand Street tunnel, resolve grade issues, and create a facility that is accessible by persons with disabilities.

The Ozarks Transportation Organization is currently working to place the project in the Transportation Improvement Program and expect USDOT approval by June 2021. In addition, we have requested a federal aid number in advance of TIP approval in order to submit a request for environmental approval this Spring.

We respectfully urge your support of our request for federal Community Project Funding for the Grand Street Pedestrian Underpass and Streetscape Improvements project. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Sara Fields  
Executive Director



OZARKSTRANSPORTATION.ORG

CONGRESSMAN BILLY LONG

Representative for Missouri's 7<sup>th</sup> Congressional District

<https://long.house.gov> ■ 202-225-6536

## Fiscal Year 2022 Community Project Funding Requests

For Fiscal Year 2022, the House Appropriations Committee will be soliciting a limited number of Community Project Funding requests along with the standard programmatic and language-based requests. A Community Project Funding request directs funds to a specific state or local government or eligible non-profit recipient. These requests “will allow Members to put their deep, first-hand understanding of the needs of their communities to work to help the people [they] represent.”

As of March 8, 2021, Members will be limited to just ten requests across ten of the twelve Appropriations Subcommittees (except Legislative Branch and State-Foreign Operations). In addition, only certain selected accounts in each Appropriations Subcommittee will be eligible for Community Project Funding requests.

Applicants should make sure that they are providing us with answers to the specific questions that are included in the individual Subcommittee instructions. For example, the instructions for Community Project Funding requests under the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee may require specific information that is different than, say, the Financial Services Appropriations Subcommittee. **Please refer to these instructions and answer the questions in a separate Microsoft Word document.**

Please note that the House Appropriations Committee will only consider projects with demonstrated community support. Please include with your submission: (1) letters of support from elected community leaders (mayors or other officials); (2) press articles highlighting the need for the requested Community Project Funding; (3) support from newspaper editorial boards; (4) demonstration that the projects are listed on State intended use plans, community development plans, or other publicly available planning documents; or (5) resolutions passed by city councils or boards. This information must be included as part of your submission and not in separate e-mails.

For-profit entities are prohibited from receiving Community Project Funding. State and local government grantees may submit requests as well as non-profits that are 510 (c)(3) charitable organizations. Non-profits organizations must provide evidence of non-profit status under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

Each project request must be for only Fiscal Year 2022 funds and cannot be a request for multiyear funding.

## Instructions

1. All requests must be typed. Handwritten requests will not be reviewed.
2. Use Microsoft Word in completing this form. Please do not send the form as a PDF. (Documentation of community support (i.e. letters, etc.) may be sent as PDF files).
3. In the email subject line, please write “COMMUNITY PROJECT FUNDING” and the name of the appropriations bill for which you are making the request:
  - Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies
  - Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies (CJS)
  - Defense (DoD)
  - Energy and Water Development, and Related Agencies (E&W)
  - Financial Services and General Government (FSGG)
  - Homeland Security
  - Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies
  - Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies (Labor-HHS)
  - Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies (Milcon-VA)
  - Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies
4. You may submit multiple requests to the same appropriations bill in the same email.
5. If you are making the request (or requests) to more than one appropriations bill, send separate emails for each appropriations bill to which you are making the request. Each email must have the specific appropriations bill in the subject line.

Example: An organization submitting one or more Community Project Funding requests that falls under just the Energy and Water Appropriations bill should send it with the subject line “COMMUNITY PROJECTS FUNDING – ENERGY AND WATER APPROPRIATIONS REQUEST.”
6. If the requests fall under more than one appropriations bill, you must send two or more separate e-mails – each with the subject line for the specific appropriations bill.
7. For transparency, we are required to post your Community Project Funding requests on our website at the time they are made to the House Appropriations Committee.

**Deadline: Thursday, April 8, 2021**

Important: Requests submitted after the deadline may not be considered. Please note that additional documentation or information may be required.

# Community Project Funding Request Form

## General Information

Business Name	Ozarks Transportation Organization	Street Address Including City, State, and ZIP Code	2208 W. Chesterfield Blvd. Springfield, MO 65807
Point of Contact	Sara Fields	Fax	(417) 862-6013
Telephone	(417) 865-3042, ext. 102	Web Site	www.ozarkstransportation.org
Cell Phone	(417) 496-4613	Missouri 7th Congressional District (MO-07) Point of Contact	Mike Ussery
<i>Please provide your cell number in case we need to reach you for an emergency.</i>		(if applicable)	
Email	sfields@ozarkstransportation.org		

## Community Project Funding Request Information

Appropriations Bill and/or Subcommittee

*Please select the Federal Appropriations Subcommittee this request falls under*

- ☐ **Agriculture** (Accounts: Agricultural Research Service, Buildings and Facilities; Rural Development, Rural Community Development Grants; Rural Utilities Service, ReConnect Grants)
- ☐ **CJS** (Accounts: Byrne Justice Assistance Grants; COPS Technology and Equipment; NOAA – Operations, Research, and Facilities; NASA – Safety, Security and Mission Services).
- ☐ **DoD** (Accounts: Research, Development, Test, and Evaluation Army; Research, Development, Test, and Evaluation Navy; Research, Development, Test, and Evaluation Air Force; Research, Development, Test, and Evaluation Space Force; Research, Development, Test, and Evaluation Defense-Wide) .
- ☐ **E&W** (Accounts: Corps of Engineers – Investigations; Construction; MS River and Tributaries; Operation and Maintenance. Bureau of Reclamation – Water and Related Resources).
- ☐ **FSGG** (Accounts: Small Business Administration; Small Business Initiatives).
- ☐ **Homeland Security** (Accounts: Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grants; Nonprofit Security Grants; Emergency Operations Center Grants).
- ☐ **Interior** (Accounts: Federal land acquisitions through the Land and Water Conservation Fund; EPA State and Tribal Assistance Grants for certain water infrastructure projects; Certain State and Private Forestry projects within the U.S. Forest Service).
- ☐ **Labor-HHS** (Accounts: Dept. of Labor – Employment and Training Administration Training and Employment Services; HHS – HRSA Program Management; HHS – SAMHSA Health Surveillance and Program Support; Dept. of Education – Innovation and Improvement; Dept. of Education – Higher Education).
- ☐ **MilCon-VA** (Accounts: Army; Navy and Marine Corps; Air Force; Defense-Wide; Army National Guard; Air National Guard; Army Reserve; Navy Reserve; Air Force Reserve).
- ☒ **T-HUD**: (Accounts: **Dept. of Transportation – Local Transportation Priorities**; Dept. of Transportation – Airport Improvement Program (AIP); HUD – Economic Development Initiative (EDI))..

Department or agency:

*(e.g., Department of Health and Human Services; Department of Labor)*

U.S. Department of Transportation

Account

*(e.g., SAMHSA; Employment and Training Administration, etc.)*

Federal Highway Administration, Local Transportation Priorities

Are you aware of another Member making a request for the same project?

☐ Yes

☒ **No**

## Request

*Your request should be no more than five or six sentences in length and correspond to the format below. It should include a description of the purpose as well as a justification for why it is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds.*

Name of Program (Name of Agency): AMOUNT for the PROGRAM, which [DESCRIPTION IN FIVE OR SIX SENTENCES]

Example: SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES ADMINISTRATION – MENTAL HEALTH (Department of Health and Human Services): Provide \$500,000 for a substance abuse treatment program in City, State, which will ....

FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION – LOCAL TRANSPORTATION PRIORITIES (U.S. Department of Transportation): Provide \$3,000,000 for Grand Street Pedestrian Underpass and Streetscape Improvements, Springfield, Missouri. To avoid conflicts involving pedestrians and vehicles, a Grand Street tunnel was constructed in the 1980s – a facility that is not accessible by persons with disabilities. Over the years, pedestrian crossings between the parking lots and the campus have increased significantly due to the growth of Missouri State University’s campus, from roughly 10,000 students in the 1980s to more than 24,000 students during the 2020-2021 academic year, and traffic counts also have risen significantly due to the growth of Springfield and the surrounding area.

To address these safety concerns and improve accessibility of surface transportation facilities, this project to be administered by Ozarks Transportation Organization will extend the Grand Street tunnel and resolve grade issues. The total project cost is \$6,500,000, of which Missouri State University has committed \$3,500,000.

## Disclosures

Do you or your organization have any financial, business, or other relationship with Congressman Long, members of his family, or any member of his congressional or campaign staff?

☐ Yes

☒ **No**

If yes, please provide details on the nature of the relationship.

Name

Sara Fields

Name of the Person Submitting This Form

Date

04

MM

07

DD

2021

YY

## Grand Street Pedestrian Underpass and Streetscape Improvements

**Prior Federal Funding:** None

**Prior US DOT Applications:** None

**Expected Obligation Date:** Early 2022

**Estimated Award Date:** Early 2022

**Estimated Project Completion Date:** August 2022

**Project Phase:** Construction

**NEPA Category of Action:** Environmental Assessment

**Status of Environmental Review:** Pre-Review. Federal Aid Number requested. Estimate May 1<sup>st</sup> submittal for environmental review.

**Project Status:** Design

**Public Input Process:** During final design, the Ozarks Transportation Organization will conduct an online public meeting to facilitate input from both the students and employees of Missouri State University and citizens of Springfield. Public Comment will also be taken during April and May of 2021 as the project is added to the TIP.

**TIP:** The project is currently being added to the TIP with a final approval estimated to occur by June 1, 2021. OTO did not update the TIP due to COVID-19 but is now processing an amendment to reflect the funding for the project. Pending TIP #MS2201. The project also appears in the current OTO Long Range Transportation Plan.



DESIGN CASE STUDY IMAGE



CURRENT PEDESTRIAN UNDERPASS



## Grand Street Pedestrian Underpass and Streetscape Improvements

**Project Description: Grand Street Pedestrian Underpass and Streetscape Improvements, Springfield, MO.** Provide \$3,000,000 for Grand Street Pedestrian Underpass and Streetscape Improvements, Springfield, Missouri.

Grand Street is a main east-west corridor through the City of Springfield, in Greene County, Missouri. Missouri State University's main campus is on the north side of Grand Street, and plans are underway to construct an amphitheater and entertainment area on this portion of campus. Three large parking lots with more than 1,350 parking spaces are across Grand Street to the south.

To avoid conflicts involving pedestrians and vehicles, a Grand Street tunnel was constructed in the 1980s. The tunnel has steep access steps on each side and is not accessible by persons with disabilities. Pedestrian crossings between the parking lots and the campus have increased significantly due to the growth of Missouri State University's campus, from roughly 10,000 students in the 1980s to more than 24,000 students enrolled at the Springfield campus for the 2020-2021 academic year. Traffic counts have risen significantly due to the growth of the city of Springfield, Missouri's third largest city, and the surrounding area.

The City of Springfield plans to widen Grand Street based on a corridor study performed in 2010. Before a Grand Street widening project can take place, the Grand Street tunnel needs to be extended to the south. Because the project involves multiple governmental entities, Ozarks Transportation Organization, the metropolitan planning organization (MPO) for Springfield/Green County, will coordinate and administer funding for the project.

The total cost of Grand Street Pedestrian Underpass and Streetscape Improvements, to extend the tunnel, resolve grade issues to alleviate accessibility concerns, and improve the surrounding parking and streetscape, is \$6,500,000. Missouri State University has committed \$3,500,000 for this project. Ozarks Transportation Organization seeks funding for the remaining \$3,000,000.

*Project Benefits include:*

- *Improved underground crossing that will be ADA accessible and safer for all pedestrians.*
- *Discourage at grade pedestrian crossings to avoid vehicular/pedestrian conflicts.*
- *Improvements to Grand Avenue to better facilitate turning movements*

**Entity Requesting Funds (aka non-federal project sponsor):**

Ozarks Transportation Organization

**Primary Point of Contact (name, email, phone number, organization address):**

Sara Fields, Executive Director  
sfields@ozarkstransportation.org  
(417) 865-3042, ext. 102  
2208 West Chesterfield Blvd.  
Springfield, MO 65807

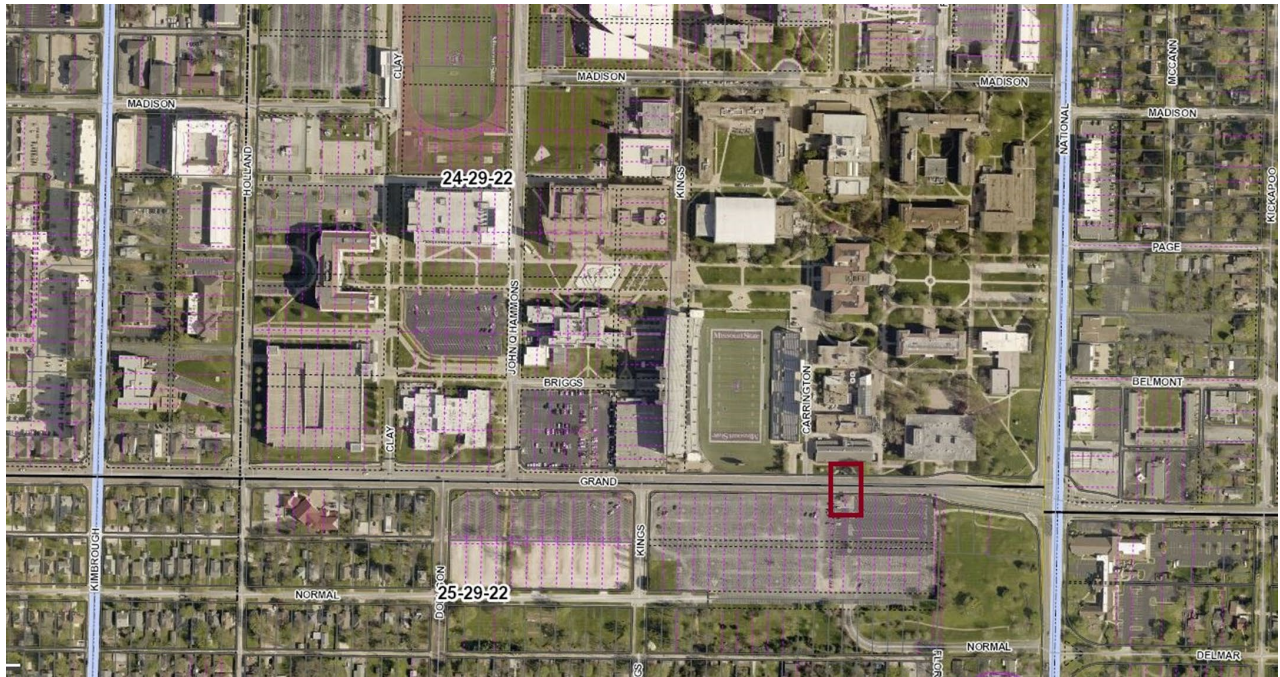
**Total Project Cost:** \$6.5 million

**Amount Requested:** \$3 million

*Missouri State University will be providing \$3.5 million to the project. Please note letter attached from MSU.*



## Grand Street Pedestrian Underpass and Streetscape Improvements



PROJECT LOCATION

**For Additional Information:**  
**Sara Fields, Executive Director**  
Ozarks Transportation Organization  
[sfields@ozarkstransportation.org](mailto:sfields@ozarkstransportation.org)  
417-496-4613 Mobile  
417-865-3042 x102 Office



# Transportation Improvement Program - FY 2020-2023

Project Detail by Section and Project Number with Map

## J) Pending Amendment Section

**TIP # MS2201-20A10** GRAND STREET PEDESTRIAN UNDERPASS & STREETSCAPE IMPROVEMENTS

**Route** Grand Street

**From**

**To**

**Location** City of Springfield

**Federal Agency** None

**Project Sponsor** Ozarks Transportation Organization

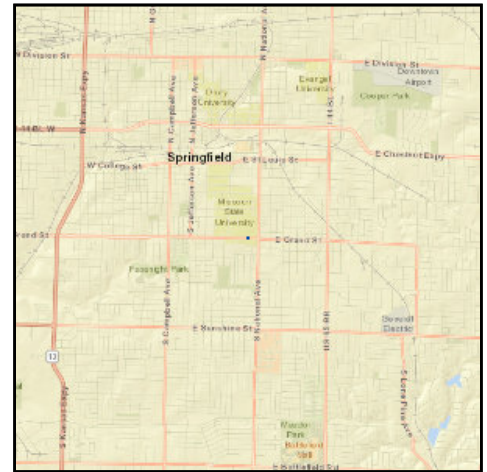
**Federal Funding Category** None

**MoDOT Funding Category** N/A

**Bike/Ped Plan?** Yes **EJ?** Yes

**STIP #**

**Federal ID #** PENDING



### Project Description

Phase I includes improvements to the Grand Street Underpass at the Missouri State University Campus, including accessibility. Phase II includes streetscape improvements on Grand Street.

Fund Code	Source	Phase	FY2020	FY2021	FY2022	FY2023	Total
LOCAL	Local	CON	\$0	\$0	\$3,536,748	\$0	\$3,536,748
<b>Totals</b>			<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$3,536,748</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$3,536,748</b>

### Notes

Non-Federal Funding Source: Missouri State University

<b>Prior Cost</b>	\$0
<b>Future Cost</b>	\$3,000,000
<b>Total Cost</b>	\$6,536,748



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, replacing the Grand Street Underpass at Missouri State University and streetscape improvements 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

Bob Dixon  
*Presiding Commissioner*

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

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



Shane Schoeller  
*Clerk of the Commission*

Christopher J. Coulter, AICP  
*County Administrator*

Megan Applegate  
*Executive Assistant*

**COUNTY COMMISSION**  
**Greene County, Missouri**  
**(417) 868-4112**

April 8, 2021

The Honorable Billy Long  
2454 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Long:

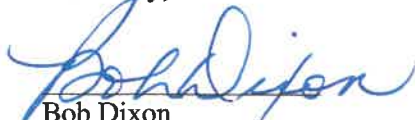
We want to advise you of our support for Ozarks Transportation Organization's request for Community Project Funding in the amount of \$3,000,000 for Grand Street Pedestrian Underpass and Streetscape Improvements, in Springfield, Missouri. This project enjoys the strong support of the City of Springfield, Greene County, Missouri State University, and the Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce.

To avoid conflicts involving pedestrians and vehicles, a Grand Street tunnel was constructed in the 1980s. That facility is not accessible by persons with disabilities. Over the years, pedestrian crossings between parking lots and Missouri State University's campus using the Grand Street tunnel have increased significantly due to the growth of Missouri State University's campus, from roughly 10,000 students in the 1980s to more than 24,000 students during the 2020-2021 academic year. Traffic counts also have risen significantly due to the growth of Springfield and the surrounding area.


To address these safety concerns and improve accessibility of surface transportation facilities, the Grand Street Pedestrian Underpass and Streetscape Improvements project to be administered by Ozarks Transportation Organization will extend the Grand Street tunnel, resolve grade issues, and create a facility that is accessible by persons with disabilities.

We respectfully urge your support of Ozarks Transportation Organization's request for federal Community Project Funding to help fund Grand Street Pedestrian Underpass and Streetscape Improvements. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

  
Bob Dixon  
Presiding Commissioner

  
Rusty MacLachlan  
Commissioner Dist. 1

  
John C. Russell  
Commissioner Dist. 2



Bob Dixon  
*Presiding Commissioner*

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

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



Shane Schoeller  
*Clerk of the Commission*

Christopher J. Coulter, AICP  
*County Administrator*

Megan Applegate  
*Executive Assistant*

**COUNTY COMMISSION**  
**Greene County, Missouri**  
**(417) 868-4112**

April 8, 2021

The Honorable Roy Blunt  
260 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Blunt:

We want to advise you of our support for Ozarks Transportation Organization's request for Community Project Funding in the amount of \$3,000,000 for Grand Street Pedestrian Underpass and Streetscape Improvements, in Springfield, Missouri. This project enjoys the strong support of the City of Springfield, Greene County, Missouri State University, and the Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce.

To avoid conflicts involving pedestrians and vehicles, a Grand Street tunnel was constructed in the 1980s. That facility is not accessible by persons with disabilities. Over the years, pedestrian crossings between parking lots and Missouri State University's campus using the Grand Street tunnel have increased significantly due to the growth of Missouri State University's campus, from roughly 10,000 students in the 1980s to more than 24,000 students during the 2020-2021 academic year. Traffic counts also have risen significantly due to the growth of Springfield and the surrounding area.


To address these safety concerns and improve accessibility of surface transportation facilities, the Grand Street Pedestrian Underpass and Streetscape Improvements project to be administered by Ozarks Transportation Organization will extend the Grand Street tunnel, resolve grade issues, and create a facility that is accessible by persons with disabilities.

We respectfully urge your support of Ozarks Transportation Organization's request for federal Community Project Funding to help fund Grand Street Pedestrian Underpass and Streetscape Improvements. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

  
Bob Dixon  
Presiding Commissioner

  
Rusty MacLachlan  
Commissioner Dist. 1

  
John C. Russell  
Commissioner Dist. 2

April 8, 2021

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

Dear Congressman Long,

I am writing to express support for the Ozarks Transportation Organization's list of Transportation Priorities. We work closely with the Ozarks Transportation Organization (OTO). The OTO has developed a listing of priorities with a data driven approach that includes public input and community leader discussion. I understand that these projects may be submitted as a Community Project Funding request in one of the annual Appropriations bills, or as a project request in the upcoming Transportation and Infrastructure bill.

The City of Springfield supports OTO requests within the city limits of Springfield, including:

- Expanding US 60 (James River Freeway) to 6-lanes from National Avenue to Kansas Expressway
- I-44 Improvements from U.S. 65 to Glenstone
- Regional Trail Expansion including the Chadwick Flyer Trail
- Grand Street Pedestrian Underpass

This multimodal list considers pedestrians, transit, and highway users. In addition, we have included projects representing Missouri State University. The list represents projects needed to improve safety, accommodate growth, improve congestion, and promote economic development.

In addition, each project has been carefully selected based upon the ability to ensure that it can be completed if federal funds were directed to the project.

The City of Springfield 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 with any questions.

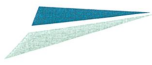
Sincerely,



Ken McClure  
Mayor, City of Springfield

Office of the Mayor  
840 Boonville Avenue, P.O. Box 8368  
Springfield, Missouri 65801 • 417-864-1651 • [springfieldmo.gov](http://springfieldmo.gov)





**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





"Everywhere Should Be Like This"

April 7, 2021

The Honorable Billy Long  
2454 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Long:

As the principal advocate for business in the Springfield region, the Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce supports the Ozarks Transportation Organization's request for Community Project Funding in the amount of \$3,000,000 for Grand Street Pedestrian Underpass and Streetscape Improvements, in Springfield, Missouri. This project also enjoys the support of the City of Springfield, Greene County, and Missouri State University.

The Grand Street tunnel was constructed in the 1980s to avoid conflicts involving pedestrians and vehicles. However, this facility is small and not accessible by persons with disabilities. Over the years, pedestrian crossings between the residential areas and Missouri State University using the Grand Street tunnel have increased significantly, due in large part to the growth of Missouri State University, from roughly 10,000 students in the 1980s to more than 24,000 students during the 2020-2021 academic year. Traffic counts also have risen significantly due to growth and redevelopment in Springfield and the surrounding area.

To address these safety concerns and improve accessibility of surface transportation facilities, the Grand Street Pedestrian Underpass and Streetscape Improvements project to be administered by Ozarks Transportation Organization will extend the Grand Street tunnel, resolve grade issues, and create a facility that is accessible by persons with disabilities. Students attending Missouri State University are critical to Springfield's future workforce. . These enhancements will help the campus improve and grow.

We respectfully urge your support of Ozarks Transportation Organization's request for federal Community Project Funding for the Grand Street Pedestrian Underpass and Streetscape Improvements. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Matt Morrow", written over a white rectangular area.

Matt Morrow, President  
Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce

April 8, 2021

The Honorable Billy Long  
United State House of Representatives  
2454 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Long:

I want to advise you of the City of Springfield's support for Ozarks Transportation Organization's request for Community Project Funding in the amount of \$3,000,000 for Grand Street Pedestrian Underpass and Streetscape Improvements, in Springfield, Missouri. This project enjoys the strong support of the City of Springfield, Greene County, Missouri State University, and the Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce.

To avoid conflicts involving pedestrians and vehicles, a tunnel under Grand Street was constructed in the 1980s to connect the Missouri State University campus with a large surface parking lot. That facility is not accessible by persons with disabilities. Over the years, pedestrian crossings between using the Grand Street tunnel have increased significantly, due to the growth of Missouri State University's campus, from roughly 10,000 students in the 1980s to more than 24,000 students during the 2020-2021 academic year. Traffic counts on Grand Street also have risen significantly due to the increased student population and the growth of Springfield overall.

To address these safety concerns and improve accessibility of surface transportation facilities, the Grand Street Pedestrian Underpass and Streetscape Improvements project to be administered by Ozarks Transportation Organization, in conjunction with the City of Springfield and Missouri State University, will extend the Grand Street tunnel, resolve grade issues, and create a facility that is accessible by persons with disabilities.

We respectfully urge your support of Ozarks Transportation Organization's request for federal Community Project Funding to help fund Grand Street Pedestrian Underpass and Streetscape Improvements. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Ken McClure  
Mayor, City of Springfield



# Missouri State<sup>™</sup>

U N I V E R S I T Y

April 6, 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 support for the Ozarks Transportation Organization's list of Transportation Priorities. We work closely with the Ozarks Transportation Organization (OTO) and agree that the list represents a regionally agreed to list of transportation priorities. The OTO has developed a listing of priorities with 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
- Grand Street Pedestrian Underpass

This multimodal list considers pedestrians, transit, and highway users. In addition, we have included projects representing two counties and seven cities, two transit providers, and a public university. The list represents projects needed to improve safety, accommodate growth, improve congestion, and promote economic develop.

In addition, each project has been carefully selected based upon the ability to ensure that it can be completed if federal funds were directed to the project.

Missouri State University 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 call me at (417) 836-8500 or email me at [cliftonsmart@missouristate.edu](mailto:cliftonsmart@missouristate.edu) with any questions.

Sincerely,

Clifton M. Smart III

**OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT**

901 South National Avenue, Springfield, MO 65897 • Phone: (417) 836-8500 • Fax: (417) 836-7669

[President@missouristate.edu](mailto:President@missouristate.edu) • [www.missouristate.edu](http://www.missouristate.edu)

An Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Institution



# Missouri State<sup>™</sup>

U N I V E R S I T Y

April 6, 2021

The Honorable Billy Long  
2454 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Long:

I want to advise you of our support for Ozarks Transportation Organization's request for Community Project Funding in the amount of \$3,000,000 for Grand Street Pedestrian Underpass and Streetscape Improvements, in Springfield, Missouri. This project enjoys the strong support of the City of Springfield, Greene County, Missouri State University, and the Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce.

To avoid conflicts involving pedestrians and vehicles, a Grand Street tunnel was constructed in the 1980s. That facility is not accessible by persons with disabilities. Over the years, pedestrian crossings between parking lots and Missouri State University's campus using the Grand Street tunnel have increased significantly due to the growth of Missouri State University's campus, from roughly 10,000 students in the 1980s to more than 24,000 students during the 2020-2021 academic year. Traffic counts also have risen significantly due to the growth of Springfield and the surrounding area.

To address these safety concerns and improve accessibility of surface transportation facilities, the Grand Street Pedestrian Underpass and Streetscape Improvements project to be administered by Ozarks Transportation Organization will extend the Grand Street tunnel, resolve grade issues, and create a facility that is accessible by persons with disabilities.

This project is important to Missouri State University and to the Springfield community. Accordingly, Missouri State University has committed \$3,536,748 for the project. This represents more than half of the total project cost of \$6.5 million.

We respectfully urge your support of Ozarks Transportation Organization's request for federal Community Project Funding to help fund Grand Street Pedestrian Underpass and Streetscape Improvements. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Clifton M. Smart III

**OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT**

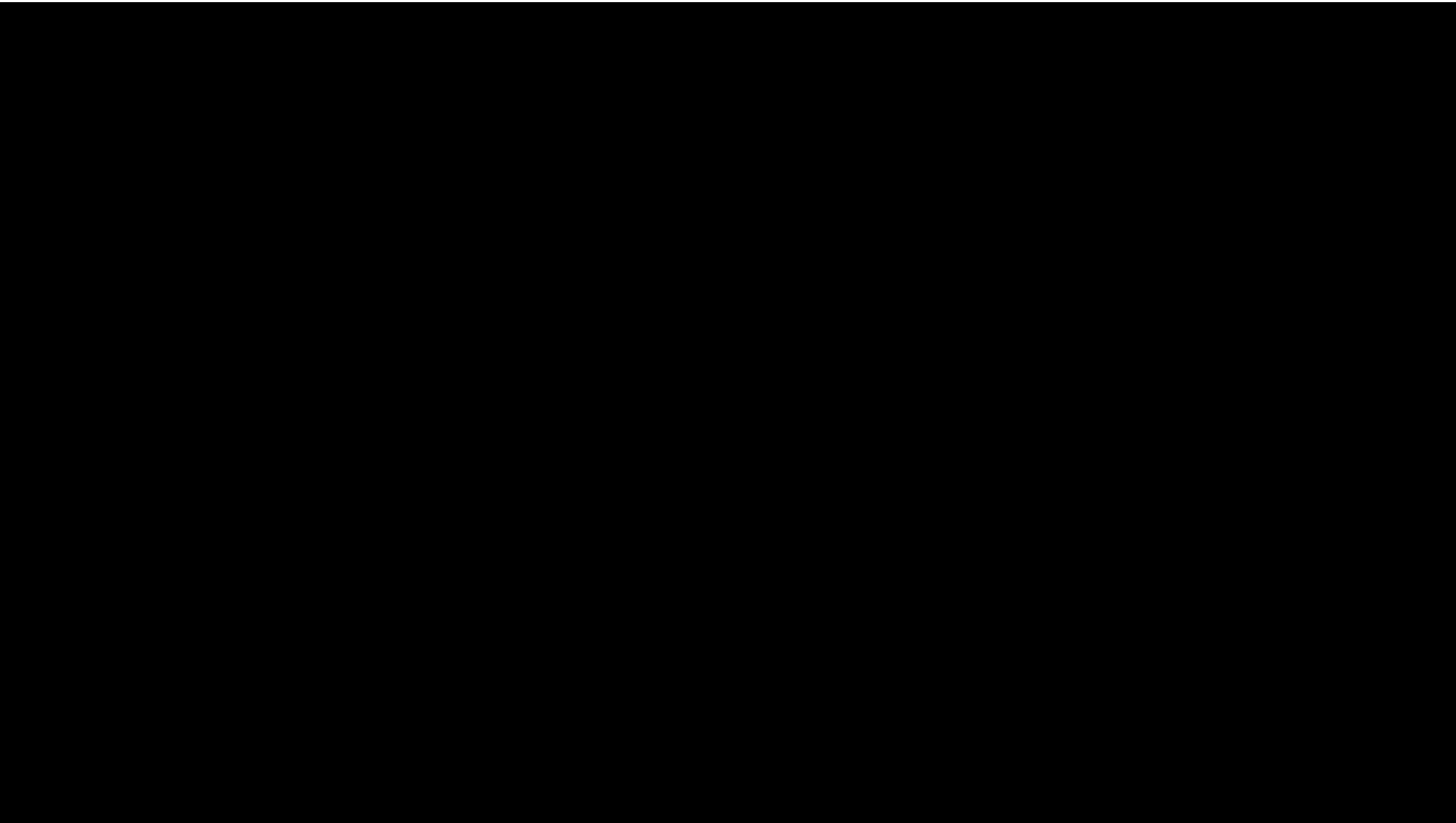
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# State funding to help Missouri State University complete repairs and renovations



By [Frances Watson](#)  
*Published: Jan. 20, 2021 at 10:31 PM CST*

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. (KY3) - Some much needed repairs and maintenance at Missouri State University will now get done thanks, in part, to state funding. University officials say they need about \$106 million for repairs and maintenance. Their budget was slashed by 75 percent due to the pandemic. This made repairs and renovations impossible. Earlier this month Governor Mike Parson announced that he was releasing more than \$68 million to colleges and universities across the state. MSU will receive a little more than \$8.4 million. The money will be used on some of those priority projects.



The Grand Street Underpass has connected students to campus for decades.



"I take this tunnel practically everyday," said Horn.

Some students say they worry about their safety.

"Part of it is the visibility. You can't really see what's going on up above either side. I do kind of have to keep my head on a swivel," explained Horn.

The 35 year-old passage way is getting a \$3.5 million upgrade.

Vice President for Administrative Services for MSU, Matt Morris said, "This project is going to allow us to build a ramp that goes down within the tunnel, an elevator on the other side. Thus addressing ADA concerns, needs as well as just security safety component there as well."

Other projects include structural improvements to Kampeter Hall and buildings at Brick City downtown.

"The university is also contributing funds so we can maximize the jobs. While we've got things tore up let's go ahead and dig into making improvements to the facilities as well," explained Morris.

School officials say these improvements are long over due.

"Really excited to begin tackling that 106-million dollar list of deferred maintenance. We make advancements on our list but it's slow going. When you get \$8.4 million dollar that certainly helps you whittle things away at a much faster pace," said Morris.

"So many students use this tunnel. That's the commuter lot, the main parking lot that students use. I think this tunnel, putting money into it, is a great use of that," said Gaul.

More than a half million dollars will be spent on the West Plains campus to help improve the Broadway Welding Lab.

Construction on these projects could start as soon as this year.

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