



# OZARKS TRANSPORTATION ORGANIZATION

A METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

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

18 February 2026

The Honorable Sean Duffy  
State Capitol Building  
Jefferson City, MO 65101

Dear Secretary Duffy,

I wanted to take a moment to acquaint you with the top transportation infrastructure project identified by the Ozarks Transportation Organization, the Springfield area metropolitan planning organization. The Route MM Widening project located in Republic, Missouri will include four lanes with a median from I-44 south to MO 360/James River Freeway, as well as a large intersection improvement at Farm Road 144. The project improves safety, travel times and freight movement. The corridor is on the Republic Police Department's top 5 crash locations with 332 crashes occurring in the last five years. The City of Republic is requesting \$24.5 million in BUILD discretionary grant funding to deliver the project.

The corridor is essential to the continued job growth in SW Missouri. There have already been an estimated 3,000 jobs added along the corridor with many more planned. The City of Republic has extended water and sewer. City Utilities has extended power, and Spire has extended natural gas. This has all been done to provide ready-to-go sites that provide high paying jobs.

The MM corridor is well positioned with access to rail, I-44, MO 360 and US 60. The airport is less than four miles from ready-to-go sites. Developments along the MM corridor are primed to leverage the benefits of the geographic positioning of Missouri and SW Missouri. Amazon, Convoy of Hope, McLane, Walmart Pharmacy Distribution, Ashley Furniture Distribution and many more have already located along the highway.

We have unsuccessfully attempted 7 times to secure federal discretionary funding from the TIGER/RAISE/BUILD and RURAL USDOT programs. Even without additional funding, the partnership in funding the highway expansion project is tremendous. The City of Republic, Greene County, and MoDOT has committed \$1.95 million in local funds and the Ozarks Transportation Organization has committed \$.5 million in federal funds. In addition, MoDOT has committed \$7.2 million in safety and economic development funds. We are excited about this project and the impact of this significant infrastructure investment to the region and the State of Missouri. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Sara Fields  
Executive Director

