



# OZARKS TRANSPORTATION ORGANIZATION

A METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

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

24 March 2022

The Honorable Peter Buttigieg  
Secretary of Transportation  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Mr. Secretary:

The Ozarks Transportation Organization is pleased to support the City of Republic's RAISE Grant application for the *Highway MM: Corridor of Opportunity* project. State Highway MM is a developing corridor, providing new employment opportunities and mixed-use development for diverse housing and retail accessibility.

The overall project provides safe and efficient freight movements, bicycle-pedestrian accommodations, and corridor connectivity. These improvements are necessary to facilitate a quality transportation network in a fast growing area of the OTO region. In addition to supporting the rapid development along the corridor, the planned improvements will support alternative routing, if necessary, between I-44, MO 360, and US 60. OTO values the resiliency this offers the region, further supporting the movement of freight and goods associated with the supply chain.

The implementation of the *Highway MM: Corridor of Opportunity* project supports all five goals from the OTO long range transportation plan, *Destination 2045*: (1) a safe transportation system for all users on all modes; (2) preserve existing transportation assets and promote fiscal responsibility; (3) connected, integrated, multi-modal system; (4) build a transportation system that supports a resilient region that is prepared for the future; and (5) build quality projects that implement best design standards and engineering practices.

The Ozarks Transportation Organization Board of Directors, at its regularly scheduled meeting on March 17, 2022, adopted a resolution of support for the *Highway MM: Corridor of Opportunity* project, recognizing the size and complexity of the improvements, and the additional funding needed to support the project in its entirety. This resolution likewise certified that the project would be included in the Transportation Improvement Program upon approval for funding. At their March 8, 2022 meeting, the OTO Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee also voted in support of the project and its integration with the bicycle and pedestrian system.

We appreciate your consideration of funding for the *Highway MM: Corridor of Opportunity* project and look forward to improving a key corridor that supports a growing region.

Sincerely,

Sara J. Fields, AICP  
Executive Director



Ozarks Transportation Organization

Resolution # 2022-02

**OZARKS TRANSPORTATION ORGANIZATION RESOLUTION  
OF SUPPORT FOR THE MM CORRIDOR OF OPPORTUNITY PROJECT**

Whereas, the Ozarks Transportation Organization has identified the MM Corridor as a regional transportation need; and

WHEREAS, development is rapidly occurring along the MM corridor leading to increased safety hazards and capacity concerns

WHEREAS, the MM railroad crossing is hazardous and causes traffic to back up onto US 60


WHEREAS, the Missouri Department of Transportation, the City of Springfield, nor Greene County have been to able to identify adequate funding sources to complete the improvement; and

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Transportation is making available funds for the purpose of improvements to America's infrastructure;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Ozarks Transportation Board of Directors agrees to add the MM Corridor of Opportunity project to the Transportation Improvement Program upon receipt of a federal award.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Ozarks Transportation Organization hereby supports the MM Corridor of Opportunity project and authorizes staff to provide letters of support and certification for inclusion in the Ozarks Transportation Organization Transportation Improvement Program.

I, David Cameron, Secretary of the Ozarks Transportation Organization, do hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly passed and adopted at the regular meeting thereof assembled this 17th day of March, 2022.

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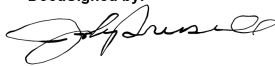
David Cameron  
Secretary of the Ozarks Transportation Organization Board of Directors



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CERTIFICATION FOR INCLUSION IN THE  
FY 2023-2026  
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 2022 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Transportation Discretionary Grant funding, the **MM Corridor of Opportunity** project will be included in the FY 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program. The local match funding has been identified and approved. The OTO recognizes the importance of this project and welcomes the federal investment in the region.

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Honorable John Russell, Chairman  
Ozarks Transportation Organization  
Board of Directors

March 17, 2022

Date