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Route MM Widening Receives \$23.5 Million BUILD Grant

A major regional transportation priority is moving forward with the award of a \$23.5 million U.S. Department of Transportation BUILD grant for improvements to Route MM in Republic.

The approximately \$34.2 million project will widen about 2.5 miles of Route MM from Haile Street to Interstate 44 and include targeted intersection improvements. The project is expected to improve safety, reduce congestion, enhance freight movement, and accommodate continued residential and employment growth in the Republic area.

Route MM has been a longstanding priority for the region. More than 3,000 jobs are currently located along the corridor, with the potential for at least 3,000 additional jobs as surrounding properties develop. Its connections to Interstate 44 and the BNSF Railway also make the corridor an important location for future industrial and employment growth.

The BUILD award is the result of years of collaboration among the City of Republic, OTO, Missouri Department of Transportation, Greene County, Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce, regional partners, and elected officials. Additional funding for the project will come from MoDOT's Cost Share Program and local matching funds provided by Republic, Greene County, and OTO.

"Our region is growing and building," said OTO Executive Director Sara Fields. "It takes us all working together to ensure transportation infrastructure remains a regional priority. When we collaborate toward a common objective, we succeed."

The widening project builds upon other improvements already underway along the corridor. MoDOT is currently constructing the Route MM Realignment, which includes relocating Route MM, constructing a bridge over the BNSF Railroad, and improving connections within the corridor.

The BUILD grant represents a significant milestone in the long-term development of Route MM and demonstrates what can be accomplished when southwest Missouri speaks with a unified voice on regional transportation priorities.

Learn more about the Route MM Widening project:
[OTO Route MM Widening BUILD Grant](#)



Study Updates



US 60/65 PEL Study Update



6065study.com

The Technical Advisory Committee met on 9/3 to discuss the range of alternatives, upcoming stakeholder and public involvement.

The Baseline Conditions Report is under review by the project partners. Comments are due 9/25.

The Framework & Methodology Memo has been approved by all project partners and we are now waiting for FHWA email concurrence.

The website has been updated with Interactive Mapping showing safety and traffic info, as well as environmental constraints.

6065study.com

In collaboration with the following agencies:



Upcoming Meetings



OCT 13

BICYCLE & PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.
OTO Conference Room

OCT 14

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.
OTO Conference Room

OCT 21

TECHNICAL PLANNING COMMITTEE

1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.
OTO Conference Room

OCT 21

NEXT STOP 2050 AT TPC

1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.
OTO Conference Room

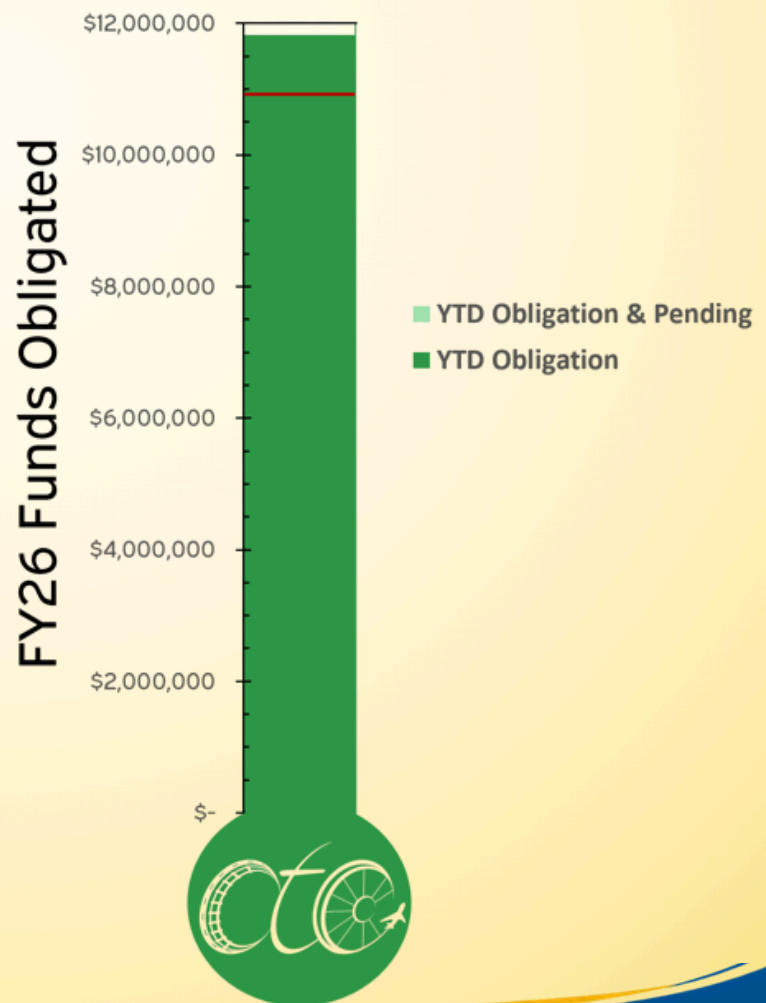
Funds Balance Update



\$11,802,604 Obligated

Thank you to everyone for your dedication to helping the OTO region successfully meet its Federal Fiscal Year 2026 obligation mandate. We anticipate ending FY 2025 with 108.2% of our annual allocation obligated, ensuring that no federal funds are lost.

Thank you



Grant Opportunities



Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-saving Transportation Program (PROTECT)

The PROTECT Competitive Grant Program funds projects that improve the resilience of the surface transportation system, including highways, public transportation, ports, and intercity passenger rail. Program goals include protecting: surface transportation assets by making them more resilient; communities through resilience improvements and strategies that allow for the continued operation or rapid recovery of surface transportation systems; coastal infrastructure; and natural infrastructure that protects and enhances surface transportation assets.

- **Resilience Improvements** to improve the ability of an existing surface transportation asset to withstand one or more elements of a weather event or natural disaster, or to increase the resilience of surface transportation infrastructure from the impacts of changing conditions, such as sea level rise, flooding, wildfires, extreme weather events, and other natural disasters
 - **Community Resilience and Evacuation Route activities** that strengthen and protect evacuation routes that are essential for providing and supporting evacuations caused by emergency events, including: resilience improvements if they will improve evacuation routes, and projects to ensure the ability of the evacuation route to provide safe passage during an evacuation and reduce the risk of damage to evacuation routes as a result of future emergency events; or
 - **At-Risk Coastal Infrastructure activities** to strengthen, stabilize, harden, elevate, relocate or otherwise enhance the resilience of highway and non-rail infrastructure, including: bridges, roads, pedestrian walkways, and bicycle lanes, and associated infrastructure, such as culverts and tide gates to protect highways that are subject to, or face increased long-term future risks of, a weather event, a natural disaster, or changing conditions, including coastal flooding, coastal erosion, wave action, storm surge, or sea level rise, in order to improve transportation and public safety and to reduce costs by avoiding larger future maintenance or rebuilding costs.
 - A project carried out by a State with PROTECT Formula Program funds may include the use of natural infrastructure or the construction or modification of storm surge, flood protection, or aquatic ecosystem restoration elements that are functionally connected to a transportation improvement.
- **Application Due:** October 9, 2026
 - **Eligible applicants:** States, MPO's, local governments, and public transportation agencies
 - **Project Size:** There is no minimum and no maximum project size.
 - **Match:** Federal Share 80%, Local Share 20%
 - **Project information can be found here:** <https://www.transportation.gov/rural/grant-toolkit/promoting-resilient-operations-transformative-efficient-and-cost-saving>

Land & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) 2027 Grant Round

- **Purpose:** Supports the acquisition, development, and renovation of public outdoor recreation sites.
- **Eligible Applicants:** Local governments, cities, counties, and public-school districts.
- **Examples of Eligible Projects:** Playgrounds, ball fields, pools and water parks, trails, camping, and picnic facilities, boating and fishing facilities, and passive recreation areas.
- **Funding:** Minimum federal grant of \$25,000 (\$50,000 minimum total project cost).
- LWCF has historically capped the grant award at \$500,000 per project.
- **Match:** 50% match required
- **Deadline:** Application packets must be postmarked by November 13, 2026.
- **More Info/Application:** [Missouri State Parks - LWCF Grants](#)

MoDOT Transportation Cost-Share Program

- The program provides financial assistance to public and private applicants for state highway and bridge projects satisfying a transportation need. MoDOT matches partners investments up to fifty percent (50%) of the project cost. Set-aside funds for economic development may fund up to one hundred percent (100%) of the total project cost. MoDOT works in cooperation with the Department of Economic Development and project sponsors to determine when targeted investments can be made to create jobs and may provide up to the one hundred percent (100%) of the cost. Retail development projects do not qualify as economic development projects that create jobs.
- **Information on the Cost-Share Program and Application can be found here:** <https://www.modot.org/cost-participation-and-cost-share>
- **Eligible Projects:** State highway and bridge projects
- **Application Deadline:** SW District Review Deadline - Tuesday, January 5, 2027, Final Application Deadline - Monday, April 5, 2027