



Ozarks Transportation Organization 2026 Legislative Priorities

TOP INVESTMENT PRIORITIES

- Interstate 44 through Greene County
- Highway MM Capacity Improvements in Greene County
- Kansas Expressway (Route 13) Capacity Improvements & Pedestrian Connectivity in Springfield
- US 60 Intersection Improvements in Republic
- US 160 Capacity Improvements from Springfield to Nixa
- Route CC Capacity Improvements from Fremont to 22nd Street in Ozark

STATE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

- Reappropriation of any unspent/restricted funds from the state appropriation of \$6 million to provide for four lanes on state Highway MM from I-44 to US 360.
- Funding a new round of Governor's Cost Share for locally owned transportation facilities using state funds for additional partnership opportunities between local governments and the private sector.
- Continued investment in the I-44 Corridor to improve freight movement, enhance safety, and improve congestion in the state of Missouri.
- Increased funding for multimodal transportation to include rail crossings, aviation, transit, sidewalk, and trails.

FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

- Continued investment in the I-44 Corridor to improve freight movement, enhance safety, and improve congestion in the state of Missouri.
- Additional transportation infrastructure funding to support the OTO priorities which include safety and congestion relieving projects, as well as bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure to support the continued development of a healthy region.
- Continued streamlining of the environmental review processes including one federal decision and reductions in authorization decision timelines to extend to Environmental Assessments as well as Environmental Impact Statements.
- Granting MPO's direct recipient status for federal funds allowing for a direct funding relationship between the federal government and MPOs.
- Shifting discretionary funding to formula funding through an equitable formula to metropolitan areas resulting in a more predictable funding distribution.
- Clarifying federal regulations to ensure funds suballocated to MPOs are available for obligation throughout for four federal fiscal years as outlined in 23 USC 118.b.
- Reduction in match requirements for all federal funds.

ABOUT THE OZARKS TRANSPORTATION ORGANIZATION

The Ozarks Transportation Organization is the federally-designated transportation planning organization for the Springfield region. The MPO includes local elected and appointed officials from Christian and Greene Counties, and the cities of Battlefield, Nixa, Ozark, Republic, Springfield, Stafford and Willard.

The OTO Mission: To provide a forum for cooperative decision-making in support of an excellent regional transportation system.

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