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April 29, 2022

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590-0001

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

It has been brought to my attention the Ozarks Transportation Organization, in collaboration with the Missouri Department of Transportation, Greene County and the City of Springfield, has applied for a Nationally Significant Freight and Highway (INFRA/MEGA) grant to fund the Fix I-44 project in Springfield, MO.

Interstate 44 is the key corridor for tourist traffic to the Ozarks and the movement of freight to markets throughout Missouri. Due to the increased volume of traffic through the portion that runs through the City of Springfield, this section of the interstate has experienced significant increases in crashes and congestion. This project will improve safety, reduce congestion, improve the overall efficiency of the network, and add to the region's economic vitality.

The efforts of the Ozarks Transportation Organization and their partners to pursue infrastructure improvements for this area is to be commended. It is my hope that you will give this grant application your full and fair consideration.

Sincere regards,



Roy Blunt
United States Senator