



Springfield-Branson
NATIONAL AIRPORT

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April 26, 2022

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

This letter is to express strong support from the Springfield-Branson National Airport (SGF) for the FIX I-44: Freight, Innovation and Safety for the Ozarks project. The Missouri Department of Transportation is requesting federal funding for improvements to I-44 through Springfield, Missouri that will improve freight mobility, safety, economic vitality, and community connections.

SGF is a fast-growing FAA designated small-hub airport serving over 1.2 million annual passengers through four airlines and fifteen direct destinations. The airport handled over thirty-five million pounds of air cargo in 2021 by carriers UPS and FedEx and operates a 23 county SW Missouri Foreign Trade Zone (#225). We are also home to a Missouri Air National Guard Base, college flight training program, and an active general aviation community.

Interstate 44 serves as a primary route for the airport and our region. The project would add capacity and pedestrian connections, improve pavement condition, and reconfigure a major interchange at Route 13/I-44. These critical improvements will ensure that local drivers, regional freight movement, and tourist traffic to Branson and the Ozarks can safely coexist, while improving connectivity between the north and south sides of I-44.

We appreciate your consideration and attention to this matter and look forward to an improved multimodal transportation network that will allow the region to continue to grow in a safe, planned manner to bring connectivity and opportunity to all residents.

Sincerely,

Brian C. Weiler
Director of Aviation