



April 7, 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:

On behalf of the Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce and our nearly 1500 member businesses, I am writing to express support for Highway MM: Corridor of Opportunity for consideration under the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Discretionary Grant Program.

The Springfield region is on a trajectory of growth, and the City of Republic is one of the fastest growing communities in our state. The Highway MM Corridor of Opportunity Project aims to enhance safety, provide for alternative modes of transportation, and add capacity to a rural route that is rapidly becoming a regional economic hub. The improvements will deliver the ability to manage the growing truck and commuter traffic along the corridor that connects Interstate 44 to multiple other major highways including US Highway 60.

The project will address safety considerations by closing two at-grade railroad crossings, building a new road alignment with an overpass over the BNSF railroad, providing a trail for bicycle and pedestrians, and turning a two-lane planned arterial into a five-lane corridor.

Transportation infrastructure is always a top priority of the Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce and the regional business community. We believe it is a pillar of economic growth and prosperity.

We appreciate your consideration and look forward to an improved transportation network. This investment will allow the region to continue to grow in a safe, strategic manner to bring connectivity and opportunity to residents and businesses and to serve as a catalyst for continued growth.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matt Morrow".

Matt Morrow
President
Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce
PO Box 1687
Springfield, MO 65801