



January 16, 2024

Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE
Washington, DC 20590

Subject: BNSF Letter of Support – Highway MM: Corridor of Opportunity

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

This letter is to express strong support for the Springfield-Branson National Airport (SGF) for the Highway MM *Corridor of Opportunity* project application being considered through the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) discretionary grant program.

SGF is a fast-growing FAA designated small-hub airport serving 1.3 million annual passengers through four airlines and 13 direct destinations. The airport handled over 31 million pounds of air cargo in 2023 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.

Highway MM serves as a primary route for the airport and our region. The project will increase safety and connectivity by expanding the current two lanes arterial road into a five-lane corridor and closing two at-grade railroad crossings. There are also associated trail improvements for bicycle and pedestrians. If approved, it would significantly improve the economic vitality of SW Missouri.

We appreciate your consideration and attention to this matter and look forward to an improved multi-modal 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, A.A.E.
Director of Aviation