

LPG, LLC
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February 3, 2024

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

Subject: LPG, LLC, Letter of Support – Highway MM: Corridor of Opportunity

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

LPG, LLC supports the efforts by the Ozarks Transportation Organization and MODOT to secure federal discretionary funding under the **2024 Rebuilding Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant** for the **Highway MM Corridor of Opportunity Project**. If awarded, the Project will realign and expand State Highway MM from I-44 to US Highway 60.

This Project will improve **Community Connectivity** by closing two At-Grade Railroad Crossings, constructing a new road alignment with an overpass over BNSF, and includes accommodations for pedestrian and bicycle traffic. The improvement will help manage the truck and commuter traffic along this corridor and help reduce exposure between vehicles and trains.

The Project will further bolster **Regional Economic Development** by improving transportation efficiency and reducing barriers to industrial and manufacturing development on land located near Interstate 44, James River Freeway, and US Highway 60. Development potential will lead to additional **Living Wage Jobs** along the Corridor, providing employment opportunities for citizens living in Historically Disadvantaged Census Tracts 48.02, 201.02 and 43.02, and improving the quality of life of those living in Republic, Clever, Battlefield, western Springfield, Bois D'Arc, and Willard.

The continued development of multi-family housing in the area will ensure **affordable and accessible housing** for the growing workforce in our region. Funding of the RAISE Grant for the MM Corridor will also improve an area of regional importance, where a new Intermediate School and City Park/Regional Sports Complex is under construction, which will lead to additional sports tourism opportunities for Southwest Missouri.

We appreciate your support and consideration for full funding of the RAISE Grant for the Highway MM Corridor of Opportunity Project.

Sincerely,

Mark Garrett