



March 31, 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 Republic Area Chamber of Commerce and as a local business owner, I am writing to express our support for Highway MM: Corridor of Opportunity grant through the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) discretionary grant program. The project will increase safety and economic vitality along the corridor with capacity expansion and at-grade railroad crossing closures.

The proposed project will provide for safer community connectivity 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. The improvement 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 City of Republic is one of the fastest growing regions in the state. Highway MM serves as primary route to the Springfield-Branson National Airport as well as the Wilson's Creek National Battlefield.

As our area is central to "everything" with the ability to transport anything thanks to rail, interstate, and air, this makes it a perfect location set for current and future economic growth for our small businesses, allowing families to shop local and those out of area to rest, in what is now becoming a destination.

As the Director of the Republic Area Chamber of Commerce, owner of two small businesses within this area, and a father of three, I can accurately tell you on behalf of the local community at large, these additions in infrastructure would be instrumental to the positive growth, our livelihoods, as well as a destination for a high quality of life and future prosperity.

We appreciate your consideration and attention to this matter and look forward to an improved 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,

Macy Mitchell
Director of the Republic Chamber/Local Business Owner