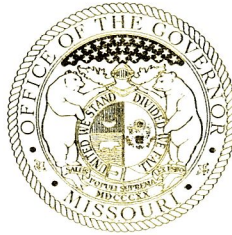


STATE CAPITOL  
201 W. CAPITOL AVENUE, ROOM 216  
JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI 65101



(573) 751-3222  
WWW.GOVERNOR.MO.GOV

*Michael L. Parson*

GOVERNOR  
STATE OF MISSOURI

February 27, 2024

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I am writing to express my support of the Ozarks Transportation Organization's (OTO) RAISE grant application for the Highway MM: *Corridor of Opportunity*.

This project expands a rural two-lane route to a five-lane facility. The Highway MM project will allow increased freight mobility, improve safety, and give better access to first responders in the area. It improves freight movement and user safety by closing two at-grade railroad crossings and building an overpass over a busy BNSF line. The area along Highway MM in Republic, Missouri is growing rapidly with new job creation and housing options. There have been 3,300 jobs created along the corridor within the past 7 years. There are an estimated 2,000 more jobs to be created with pending development along the corridor.

Highway MM connects two major corridors Interstate 44 to US 60, a 2,655-mile (in total) east/west route which runs the entire length of Missouri connecting Oklahoma to Kentucky. Highway MM serves as a primary route to the Springfield-Branson National Airport as well as the Wilson's Creek National Battlefield. It is a major north/south connection for the region connecting Christian County and the west side of the City of Springfield to I-44.

The Highway MM project will improve safety, mobility, and connectivity for all road users. Safety enhancements will protect drivers while expanded capacity will meet current and future traffic demands. Pedestrian improvements like new connections will make walking easier and safer. Eliminating at-grade rail crossings will benefit freight, enhance traffic flow, and significantly improve rail and road safety. By addressing the community's diverse transportation needs, the Highway MM project will deliver comprehensive upgrades that benefit all users.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael L. Parson".

Michael L. Parson  
Governor