

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS AGENDA 07/18/2024; ITEM II.M.**

**Authorization of Concurrence with I-44 Funding**

**Ozarks Transportation Organization  
(Springfield, MO Area MPO)**

**AGENDA DESCRIPTION:**

Governor Parson signed the 2025 Missouri Budget on June 28, 2024 which included \$577.5 million in additional funding for I-44 as authorized by the Missouri legislature. The Missouri Highway and Transportation Commission (MHTC) approved the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) on July 13, 2024, with the addition of the included I-44 funding. In the OTO area, this included \$165,500 million for I-44 safety and capacity improvements from Route 160 in Springfield to Route 125 in Strafford. This project did not appear in the original draft of the MoDOT STIP, nor is it included in the OTO draft Transportation Improvement Program. The MHTC added the projects that received funding from the Missouri Legislature at the meeting on July 13, 2024. As this project was not previously reviewed by the planning partners, a request has been made to get concurrence with the addition of the project.

The OTO Board of Directors has voiced support for the project as our top legislative priority for 2025 funding. Staff is pleased to recommend the Board authorize concurrence with the addition of the project to the STIP.

As funding was not secured until very recently, staff recommends that the Board also express an intent to add the project to the TIP subject to the standard process of a public comment period.

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS ACTION REQUESTED:**

That a member of the Board of Directors makes the following motion:

“Move to authorize the Executive Director to concur with the addition of I-44 as described in the 2025-2029 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program and to indicate intent to add the project to the OTO Transportation Improvement Program after taking public comment.”

OR

“Move to .....”

**Missouri Department of Transportation**  
*Patrick K. McKenna, Director*

1.888.ASK MODOT (275.6636)

July 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024

Sara Fields  
Executive Director  
Ozarks Transportation Organization  
2208 W. Chesterfield Blvd. Suite 101  
Springfield, MO 65807

Subject: Request for Concurrence for General Assembly Designated and Funded projects

Dear Sara,

The General Assembly, with the Governors approval, has made a major investment in transportation by designating and funding transportation projects throughout the State. This investment will allow for the delivery of regionally significant projects in your area outside of the traditional funding distribution, resulting in additional funds being invested on projects to improve transportation.

The Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission has approved these projects as part of the 2025-2029 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP), but they also greatly value the planning framework, the partnership with each of you, and our history of working together throughout the transportation decision making process. As this investment will move forward projects that were not specifically approved through the project prioritization efforts in each region, the Commission has directed MoDOT to seek your concurrence for the inclusion of these projects in the STIP.

Project Number	County	Route	Description / Location	Cost (\$1,000)
ST0088	GREENE	IS 44 E	Safety and capacity improvements from Rte. 160 in Springfield to Rte. 125 in Strafford.	\$165,500

Significant portions of the project listed above were included in your regions October 2023 High Priority Unfunded Needs List.



*Our mission is to provide a world-class transportation system that is safe, innovative, reliable and dedicated to a prosperous Missouri.*

[www.modot.org](http://www.modot.org)

Please provide a response indicating your name, your concurrence status, and your signature and return by mail or email before July 29<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

I, \_\_\_\_\_,  concur /  do not concur with the project specified above  
(Printed Name)  
being included in the STIP.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(signature)

Sincerely,  
  
Llans Taylor, PE  
Transportation Planning Director  
Missouri Department of Transportation

If responding by email, please send a scanned copy of the signed letter to [Llans.Taylor@modot.mo.gov](mailto:Llans.Taylor@modot.mo.gov). If responding by mail, please send the signed letter to Llans Taylor, MoDOT Transportation Planning, PO Box 270, Jefferson City, MO 65102.