

ERIC BURLISON
7TH DISTRICT, MISSOURI

Oversight and Accountability Committee
Transportation and Infrastructure Committee
Education and the Workforce Committee

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February 23, 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

It has come to my attention that the Ozarks Transportation Organization (OTO) is submitting an application for funding through the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Program for Highway MM: Corridor of Opportunity. I believe that the Highway MM project in Republic, Missouri to be an excellent candidate to receive this grant.

The Highway MM project is a comprehensive project that will fix a multitude of problems on a rural route in Republic, Missouri. In addition to expanding a rural two-lane route to a divided four lane with raised medians, this project will also allow increased freight mobility, improving safety and giving better access to first responders in the area. It closes three railroad crossings and builds an overpass over a busy BNSF line. It will also create a more cohesive community, improving pedestrian connectivity by adding sidewalks and a shared use path to remove pedestrians from the roadway shoulder. This project protects pedestrians by adding an underpass to safely move children under the highway to the new intermediate school. This rapidly developing area is creating concentrated new job centers and mixed-use housing including affordable multi-family housing.

I request your full and fair consideration for this application. In addition, I would ask that you keep my office informed of the progress of the proposal and notify me when a decision regarding the recipients has been made.

If you have any questions feel free to contact 1) Kyle McKay at my Washington, D.C. office at 202-225-6536 or by email at kyle.mckay@mail.house.gov or Jered Taylor at my Springfield, Missouri office at 417-889-1800 or by e-mail at jered.taylor@mail.house.gov.

Sincerely,



Eric Burlison