

Appendix A:

Evidence of Non-Federal and Other Match Commitments

Missouri Department of Transportation (letter)

Ozarks Transportation Organization (OTO) (letter)

Greene County (letter)

City of Springfield (letter and resolution)



Missouri Department of Transportation

3025 East Kearney Street
P.O. Box 868
Springfield, Missouri 65801
417.895.7600

February 20, 2020

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE
Washington, DC 20590


**RE: Match Commitment Letter for
FIX I-44: Freight, Innovation and Safety for the Ozarks Project**

Dear Secretary Chao:

On behalf of the Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT), please accept this letter of our commitment to provide matching funds as detailed in our application to the *Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) Program* for the **FIX I-44: Freight, Innovation and Safety for the Ozarks** project.

Please contact me if you have any questions at 417-895-7605 or by e-mail at steven.campbell@modot.mo.gov.

Sincerely,



Steve Campbell
District Engineer, Southwest District

SC/dt





OZARKS TRANSPORTATION ORGANIZATION

A METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

2208 W. CHESTERFIELD BOULEVARD, SUITE 101, SPRINGFIELD, MO 65807
417-865-3047

February 13, 2020

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE
Washington, DC 20590

**RE: Missouri Department of Transportation: FIX I-44
Infrastructure for Rebuilding America Grant Proposal**

Dear Secretary Chao:

I am writing to express Ozarks Transportation Organization's support for the FIX I-44, Infrastructure for Rebuilding America grant proposal. The Ozarks Transportation Organization is the Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Springfield, Missouri area. This project is supported by the region and ranks as a top project for system improvements due to the congestion and safety needs of the corridor.

Springfield is proud to be a regional economic hub. With an MSA population of nearly half a million people, it plays a vital role in the economies of 27 rural counties, including portions of Arkansas. The farm to market network and the value this Interstate facility brings to the rural communities cannot be emphasized enough. More than 50 percent of the land in Greene County is agriculture with cropland and pastureland being the primary land commodities and cattle (68,000 head in 2017) being the largest livestock inventory. These agriculture products feed America and the heartland and the supply chain is a vital component to our more than 1,800 farms in Greene County alone.

I-44 connects St Louis, Missouri to Wichita Falls, Texas and transverses three states. I-44 has 51,000 AADT, the highest volume for any section of I-44 in Missouri outside of the St. Louis area. I-44 is a lifeline to our region, serving as the biggest freight connector and a nationally significant corridor. In fact, almost one-third of the volume on I-44 is from commercial vehicles. The tonnage and value of freight for I-44 is among the highest in the state of Missouri.

The high traffic volumes on I-44 lead to increased congestion, but worse increased traffic crashes. Crashes on I-44 are all too frequent. First responders have very little room to maneuver and a lane closure on I-44 results in many hours of congestion and secondary crashes. The additional lanes that will be provided through this project will mean fewer crashes and additional room to clear any crashes that might occur.

The I-44 corridor in Springfield has several ongoing issues. There are six bridges that are nearing the end of their useful life and must be completely replaced and raised in order to meet height standards in the section of I-44 that is proposed for improvement. These bridges provide important connections to the City of Springfield from the north. In addition, the pavement on I-44 needs to be resurfaced. This project will extend the pavement on I-44 while delivering additional safety and congestion benefits.

We are so very pleased to be able to present a project that encompasses the collaborative spirit that we are known for in Southwest Missouri. We are unable to complete a project of this magnitude without your



assistance. The Missouri Legislature passed the Governor's Bridge Bonding package last year and we will be using the Springfield allocation to provide the matching funds for this INFRA grant. In addition, the City of Springfield and Greene County are coming to the table to partner with local funds. We have worked to bring together a diverse source of funds to build this project. We are hopeful that a federal award will allow us to FIX I-44.

Improvements to I-44 are extremely important to the region. A USDOT Investment in I-44 in Springfield will bring far-reaching benefits that include improved safety and economic vitality. We would like to thank you in advance for reviewing MoDOT's application and hope that you will be able to fund this nationally significant project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Travis Cossey', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Travis Cossey
Board Chairman, Ozarks Transportation Organization



County of **GREENE** State of Missouri

GREENE COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

2065 N CLIFTON, SPRINGFIELD, MO 65803

FAX (417) 831-5216

(417) 831-3591



BOB DIXON

Presiding Commissioner

HAROLD BENGSCHE

Commissioner 1st District

JOHN C. RUSSELL

Commissioner 2nd District

RICK ARTMAN

Administrator

February 18, 2020

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao, Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.
Washington, DC 20590

RE: INFRA Grant Support
"Fix I-44, Freight Innovation and Safety for the Ozarks"

Dear Secretary Chao:

On behalf of the Greene County Commission, we are writing to express our full support of the Missouri Department of Transportation's (MoDOT) application for a federal INFRA Grant to add additional lanes to Interstate 44 in the Springfield area. I-44 is our main east/west transportation corridor through our region and serves as a vital part of the regional and national freight transportation system currently carrying nearly 20 million vehicles per year, including 27% freight haulers. I-44 is also a major component of our nation's interstate system which facilitates significant economic activity as well as national security interests.

The addition of lanes to the segment of I-44 between US 160 and US 65 in Greene County, means that vehicles "passing through" the area could move relatively unimpeded when vehicles in the outside lanes are slowing to make turns onto exit ramps and/or allowing merging traffic into the lane from on-ramps. The additional lanes will also make the situation safer for the motorist by lessening some of the issues associated with "merging" vehicles into two lanes rather than one when conducting maintenance operations, law enforcement stops, crash remediation, etc. We realize the additional lanes will require extensive modifications to the existing I-44 right-of-way, roadbed, and bridges. These modifications will come at a price tag above and beyond what one local agency can invest on its own.

As Greene County has a rich history in working in a cooperative effort with the MoDOT Southwest District and the City of Springfield in partnerships to reach a common goal of bringing transportation improvements to our area, we fully support the proposed addition of travel lanes to I-44. Historically, we have been able to maximize our funding sources in this effort to bring much needed safety and capacity improvements to our citizens.

Therefore, we urge the Department to give the project full consideration as a project of national significance.

As a demonstration of Greene County's commitment and support for the project, we are committing to appropriate a sum of \$1,000,000.00 dollars in FY2024 to MoDOT through a cooperative agreement to aid in constructing this project through the INFRA Grant.

Given the many public benefits associated with this proposed project, we urge you to support this request for the INFRA Grant. Thank you for your consideration.


Sincerely,



Bob Dixon
Presiding Commissioner



Harold Bengsch
Commissioner 1st District



John C. Russell
Commissioner 2nd District

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE
Washington, DC 20590

**RE: Missouri Department of Transportation: I-44 Freight and Highway Improvement Project
Infrastructure for Rebuilding America Grant Proposal**

Dear Secretary Chao:

On behalf of the City of Springfield, Missouri, I am writing to express our strong support for the Interstate 44 (I-44) Infrastructure for Rebuilding America grant proposal. The Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT) is requesting federal funding to help offset the cost of widening I-44 through Springfield, Missouri (Greene County) to improve safety and economic vitality. We encourage you to give the application favorable consideration.

This project is important to me personally because transportation infrastructure is crucial to the economic vitality to all cities, and Springfield is no exception. INFRA funding will make significant safety and capacity improvements on the I-44 as it travels through Springfield (population 168,122). And, as evidence of the City of Springfield's support, we are committing \$2 million to help complete the project.

The I-44 is a major east-west corridor that begins in Texas, traverses through Oklahoma, and terminates on the eastern border of Missouri at St. Louis. Globally, Springfield is known as the "stainless steel capital of the world" with almost all stainless-steel tanks used in the food production and processing industry manufactured in the Springfield region. Nationally, over 50 percent of freight traffic moving on I-44 in Missouri is through-traffic. The average daily traffic count within the limits of the proposed segment is 51,000, with 24 percent (or 12,000 vehicles) being over-the-road freight haulers. Also, the Springfield-Branson National Airport (accessed directly from the I-44) is a major supply chain facility for companies including FedEx and Bass Pro Shops. Additionally, both Partnership Industrial Parks, East and West, are accessed directly from I-44. It is also vital for City tourism, bringing visitors to attractions such as Bass Pro Shops Outdoor World and the Wonders of Wildlife National Museum, as well as regional tourism via Branson and Silver Dollar City -- located 50 miles south and welcoming 9 million visitors annually. For comparison, Disneyland and the Statue of Liberty welcome 18 million and 4.5 million visitors annually, respectively.

While Springfield is the State's 3rd largest city, it is the economic hub for 27 **rural counties**, including portions of Arkansas. The I-44 plays a significant role in the farm to market network and the value this Interstate facility brings to the rural communities cannot be emphasized enough. More than 50 percent of the land in Greene County is agriculture with cropland and pastureland being the primary land commodities and cattle (68,000 head in 2017) being the largest livestock inventory. These agriculture products feed America and the heartland and the supply chain is a vital component to our more than 1,800 farms in Greene County alone. There are an additional 26 counties with similar farmland statistics that would benefit firsthand by the proposed I-44 improvements.

Safety and economic vitality -- these are two key reasons why the I-44 improvements are extremely important to the region. I hope you will agree with me that an FHWA investment in the Springfield, Missouri region will bring far-reaching benefits to rural residents, urbanites, manufacturing, freight movement through ground transportation and air, and tourism, to name a few. We appreciate your review of MoDOT's application and hope to hear good news soon!

Sincerely,



Ken McClure
Mayor
Springfield, Missouri

Office of the Mayor
840 Boonville Avenue, P.O. Box 8368
Springfield, Missouri 65801 • 417-864-1651 • springfieldmo.gov

