

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
Washington, DC 20515-2507

April 21, 2021

Dear Chair DeFazio and Ranking Member Graves:

I am requesting funding for the I-44 expansion to six lanes in the Springfield, Missouri area, in surface transportation reauthorization legislation.

The project sponsor for this project is Ozark Transportation Organization, and the project is located in Springfield, Missouri.

The funding is designated for the first phase of the expansion of Interstate 44. Interstate 44 consistently has considerable congestion which is exasperated by crashes. One crash often results in more crashes, making the corridor unsafe. Traffic is detouring to local Springfield streets in an effort to avoid I-44. This adds addition stress to major corridors such as Kansas Expressway and Kearney Street. Adding capacity to I-44 will reduce congestion and provide an additional through lane in the event of an incident. This first phase from US 65 to Glenstone is planned to be constructed in 2024.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer dollars and is anticipated to have the following benefits:

- Better incident clearance times. An additional lane will allow responders to have space to improve personal safety and to clear incidents more efficiently.
- Reduced emissions by getting traffic moving.
- Reduced accidents resulting from reduced congestion.
- Congestion relief to keep people and freight moving.

I certify that neither I nor my immediate family has any financial interest in this project.

Sincerely,



Rep. Billy Long

April 20, 2021