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Michael L. Parson

GOVERNOR
STATE OF MISSOURI

September 22, 2021

Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Mr. Secretary:

The City of Excelsior Springs and surrounding area is home to over 16,000 residents and is a regional tourism destination. The city is in need of federal assistance to secure funding for the Safe Streets and Sidewalks initiative, which will provide sidewalks and trails along US-69 and MO-10 as well as connect the community center, middle and high schools, and commercial shopping district with the rest of the community.

Currently, US-69 has limited pedestrian crossing points and no crossing signals. MO-10 has narrow or no shoulders, and pedestrians are forced to walk alongside traffic. These conditions require driving children to school regardless of how close they live to the campus. Disabled residents in motorized wheelchairs travel within the driving lanes on Highway 10 to get groceries. Elementary School children travel on foot through a one-lane railroad underpass. Westside businesses want to improve the functionality of the business district and elevate the appearance to capture some of the tourist traffic currently traveling past their businesses to enjoy attractions downtown.

The City is taking a bold approach to solve these problems and can provide up to \$2 million to cost share with federal dollars. The Westside Business District is providing additional support of \$4 million.

Two of my administration's top priorities are improving Missouri's infrastructure and fostering economic development. These priorities not only benefit Missouri but the entire Midwest region as well, and this project aligns with those priorities. I respectfully request that you approve the RAISE Grant application for the City of Excelsior Springs.

Sincerely,

A blue ink signature of Michael L. Parson, followed by his name and title.

Michael L. Parson
Governor