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## Representative Mayhew,

We respectfully request your support for a budget proposal to utilize \$1.4 billion in existing state surplus and to provide a level of additional bonding authority sufficient to complete a rehabilitation and expansion of Interstate 70 to provide a minimum of three lanes in each direction across the state of Missouri.

Interstate 70 is Missouri's Main Street. It connects many of the state's largest cities and is a crucial link for businesses, commuters, and travelers. It is a primary artery for the transportation of Missouri goods within the state and provides access for Missouri products to markets and consumers across the country. It plays a crucial role in the tourism industry, providing access to several of Missouri's major tourist destinations. An improved Interstate 70 helps businesses in Missouri compete nationally and globally.

- Improving Interstate 70 would create economic opportunities by attracting new businesses, creating jobs, and speeding the delivery of Missouri products and commodities to market.
- Expanding the capacity of Interstate 70 would reduce congestion and improve traffic flow, leading to shorter travel times and reduced costs for Missouri businesses and residents.
- Increasing the number of lanes on Interstate 70 would provide drivers with more space to maneuver, reducing the likelihood of accidents and provide greater opportunity to divert traffic around them when they do occur.
- The current state budget also includes \$100 million for low volume and minor roads for other parts of the state.

Existing state surpluses provide a unique opportunity to undertake transformative projects for the state of Missouri. Now is the time to tackle the critical problem that is Interstate 70 during times of record financial surplus, or the opportunity may be permanently lost.

We need your leadership on this issue. Please support the budget proposal to rehabilitate and expand Interstate 70 to a minimum of six lanes across the entire state of Missouri.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the organizations identified below,

Jeff Glenn, Executive Director
Missourians for Transportation Investment

American Council of Engineering Companies of Missouri

Associated General Contractors of Missouri

Associated Industries of Missouri

Columbia Chamber of Commerce

**Economic Development Corporation of Kansas City** 

Heavy Construction Laborers' Local #663

Heavy Constructors Association of Greater Kansas City

International Union of Operating Engineers Local 101

Missouri Asphalt Pavement Association

Missouri Association of Counties

Missouri Concrete Association

Missouri Corn Growers Association

Missouri Farm Bureau

Missouri/Kansas Chapter – American Concrete Pavement Association

Missouri Limestone Producers Association

Missouri Municipal League

Missouri Society of Professional Engineers

Missouri Transportation and Development Council

Missouri Trucking Association

Missourians for Transportation Investment

Municipal League of Metro St. Louis

SITE Improvement Association

St. Charles Regional Chamber