



Lane Area Commission on Transportation

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May 13, 2015

Attn: Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington DC 20590

RE: City of Springfield TIGER 7 Grant Application

Secretary Foxx:

On behalf of the Lane Area Commission on Transportation (Lane ACT) I strongly encourage you to fund the request by the City of Springfield, the Oregon Department of Transportation, and the Lane Transit District for a Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER 7) grant to improve Franklin Boulevard in the Glenwood area of Springfield, Oregon. The Franklin Boulevard Complete Street Reconstruction project clearly meets the goals of the TIGER 7 grant program. In particular, the project aligns with the TIGER 7 focus on funding transformative projects that are multi-modal in scope and help to build a "ladder of opportunity" for those in the greater Eugene/Springfield metropolitan region.

In 2013/14 the LaneACT prioritized projects for the System Enhancement portion of the 2015 - 2018 Oregon Statewide Transportation Improvement Program. The City of Springfield Franklin Boulevard Project Phase 1 was a top project recommended for funding by the LaneACT and received the largest funding allocation of recommended projects at \$6 million. The Oregon Transportation Commission (OTC) ultimately agreed with our recommendation and placed the project in the STIP at that amount matched by \$3.6 million in local funds.

As a collaborative transportation advisory body to the OTC, the LaneACT works hard to create funding equity among modes and jurisdictions in our Area. It is our understanding that a TIGER award will allow the City and its project partners to complete the Franklin project. This is very good news because it now appears likely that the State may not offer a System Enhancement program in the 2018-2021 STIP. Even if ODOT is able to make some funding available for enhancement projects in the next STIP, with limited resources it may be difficult for the Lane ACT to prioritize additional funding for the Springfield project given the many competing needs and interests around the table.

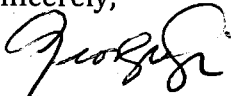
The Franklin Project provides critically needed investment in our transportation infrastructure. It generates construction jobs in the short-term and creates economic development opportunities that will provide jobs in the future. Dramatic improvements to pedestrian, bicycle, and transit facilities will increase the level of access and mobility to

jobs and education for the adjacent lower income neighborhoods, and improve this important east-west connection for all system users.

The Franklin project reconstructs a very challenging urban arterial into a multi-way boulevard with roundabout intersections and bus rapid transit facilities. This is a highly creative and innovative concept that allows for the safe and efficient movement of through traffic while also creating a high level of access to adjacent businesses and residents and a safe and convenient pedestrian and bicycle environment. The multi-way boulevard concept is one that can be applied to urban arterials and orphaned highways throughout the country.

This TIGER grant application is strongly supported by Springfield's Mayor and City Council, the Oregon Department of Transportation, the Lane Transit District, the City of Eugene, Lane County, and the Central Lane Metropolitan Planning Organization. Please consider our recommendation to support this important collaborative transportation project and award this TIGER grant to this community.

Sincerely,



George Grier, Chair
Lane Area Commission on Transportation