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United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3703
June 22, 2015

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Honorable Anthony Foxx
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

RE: City of Springfield Franklin Boulevard Improvement Project TIGER VII Grant Application

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I am writing to express my support for the TIGER VII grant application submitted by the City of Springfield for the *Franklin Boulevard Improvements Project*. As the City of Springfield intends to use the requested funds to improve vital transportation infrastructure in the region, I believe this application is in alignment both with U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) long term goals and TIGER VII program objectives.

A leveraged investment of this type can bring significant long-term benefits in transportation and economic development, while enhancing quality of life, sustainability, and safety in the region. Furthermore, the economic development facilitated by this investment can achieve of the key goals of the TIGER program by sustaining existing jobs and promoting addition job creation.

This project seeks to make improvements to Franklin Boulevard, a major east-west corridor connecting Springfield and Eugene and passes by the University of Oregon. Currently, Franklin Boulevard east of I-5 in Glenwood is an outmoded five lane highway that is not pedestrian or bicycle friendly and lacks a functional storm water management system. This project is a comprehensive street improvement plan that will maintain two through lanes of automobile traffic in each direction while also adding protected bike lanes, generous sidewalks, and the installation of green water management infrastructure. Collectively, these improvements will enhance the safety, accessibility, and livability for everyone who lives, works, or visits businesses and services in the area. In addition, this investment in Springfield's transportation infrastructure will support new construction jobs in the short term and can serve as a catalyst for further economic development and private sector reinvestment in the area.

This project enjoys broad community support and has been a local and regional priority for almost a decade. Consistent with your customary practices and procedures, I urge you to give full and favorable consideration to the City of Springfield's Tiger VII grant application.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Juine Chada in my office at (541) 431-0229.

Sincerely,



RON WYDEN
United States Senator

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