



August 10, 2015

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

RE: City of Springfield TIGER Grant Application

Secretary Fox:

On behalf of the Neighborhood Economic Development Corporation (NEDCO), I strongly encourage you to fund the request by the City of Springfield and the Oregon Department of Transportation for a Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grant for improvements to Franklin Boulevard in the Glenwood area of Springfield, Oregon. This project is critical to creating the desired urban transportation system and community desired redevelopment in the Glenwood area and connecting this redevelopment to the economic recovery of Downtown Springfield.

The redevelopment of Glenwood and improved transportation infrastructure for pedestrians, bikes and cars is vital to bringing commerce into Downtown. NEDCO is an active partner in Downtown investment including:

- The recent development of Sprout, a regional community food hub in Downtown;
- A microenterprise support program;
- Community LendingWorks, a Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI) that specializes in micro and small business lending in underserved areas.

Increasing the ease and improving the safety of accessing Downtown will only further drive the redevelopment energy already growing. Additionally, improving connections between Downtown Springfield, the University of Oregon and the City of Eugene, through the Glenwood redevelopment area, is a necessity for citizens relying on services.

I strongly support this TIGER grant application. Please consider my recommendation to support this important collaborative transportation project and award this TIGER grant to this community.

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Sincerely,

Emily Reiman
Executive Director
Neighborhood Economic Development Corporation