



January 3, 2020

Joint Committee on Ways and Means Sub-Committee on Capital Construction
Senator Fred Girod, Co-Chair
Representative Paul Holvey, Co-Chair
900 Court Street, NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Request for state lottery bond for Eugene Riverfront Project

Senator Girod and Representative Holvey;

The City of Eugene formally requests the consideration of the Joint Ways and Means-Capital Construction Sub-Committee to allocate, as part of the 2020 Lottery Bond-Economic Development allocation, approximately \$4 million to support the Eugene Riverfront Project.

Riverfront Overview

Major transformation of Eugene's Downtown Riverfront is underway, fulfilling the community's long-held goal of turning a vacant, inaccessible riverfront lot into a vibrant, active, and accessible riverfront district and community destination. The redevelopment of the Downtown Riverfront has been a part of the community's vision for decades, reinforced through numerous public engagement opportunities over several years. The City's Urban Renewal Agency now owns 16 acres of riverfront property that will become Eugene's riverfront neighborhood – directly connecting our downtown and campus areas to the Willamette River and creating more access points for the community to enjoy.

Set to break ground in 2020, the Downtown Riverfront Park sits along the bank of the Willamette River and anchors the greater riverfront development project. This project addresses a critical need for housing in downtown and links together several economic and educational hubs. With the addition of hundreds of market-rate and affordable housing units, a planned hotel, and more than 60,000 square feet of retail and office space in the planned Steam Plant redevelopment, the new neighborhood and park will bring residents and daytime workers to the edge of downtown and create demand for retail goods and services. By creating a vibrant mixed-use neighborhood that is centrally located and easily connects the University of Oregon to Eugene's downtown, Eugene is strengthening our region's ability to build an economy that will prosper throughout the 21st century.

Riverfront Park

The requested Lottery Bond allocation will support the completion of the Riverfront Park, a 4-acre park that's fundamentally urban in character balanced by riverbank and natural habitat enhancements. Broad river views, new bicycle and pedestrian paths, seating, and overlooks highlight the park's design, which will be complemented by a mixture of uses on the adjacent redevelopment site. Integrated public art pieces will share stories about the land, industry, and diverse community both past and present, creating a park experience that's truly all about Eugene and the river upon which it was founded.

To date, the City of Eugene has undertaken significant riverbank and habitat work, including the remediation of contaminated soil, removal of invasive species and replanting of more than 24,000 native plants along the riverbank. In addition to creating an uninterrupted habitat corridor, this site brings much needed recreation access to the river. Shoreline enhancements and new amenities will significantly improve public access for the estimated 1,000-2,000 daily visitors who wish to enjoy the Willamette River. The Park will include a fully-inclusive play area with an interactive water feature and have programmable space for events and celebrations year-round. Street names and integrated art pieces will honor Native American and African American communities in the Riverfront Development, like the recently adopted "Annie Mims Lane, Wiley Griffon Way, and Nak-nak Avenue."

Oregon21- World Athletics Championships

Eugene is hosting the world in August of 2021, when the World Athletics Championships will be held at the newly constructed Hayward Field. Due to space constraints at Hayward Field, the free Community and Fan Festival will be held here at the new Riverfront Park, serving as a legacy for years to come. This area will play host to all the Eugene and Oregon based entertainment, tourism, business expo, and cultural events. We plan to have a world class event located right on the River, showcasing Eugene and Oregon for visitors from across the globe.

Schedule and Funding

Site remediation was completed in late 2019, with site plantings scheduled for early 2020. Infrastructure improvements will begin in early 2020 with completion of Phase One of the project scheduled for early-summer 2021, in time for the World Championships. Construction of Phase Two of the project, including the Plaza will be completed by the end of 2022.

The City currently has secured \$18.5 million of the total \$23.5 million project budget. Sources of funding include: \$12 million from the City of Eugene Riverfront Urban Renewal Agency, \$6 million from City of Eugene Capital Funding, and \$.5 million from the 2018 City of Eugene Parks and Recreation Bond. We forecast the ability to secure an additional \$1 million from grants and private donations over the next 12 months. The Lottery Bond request is for \$4 million of state funding to support this project, or 17% of the total project cost.

Thank you for your consideration and support for Eugene's Riverfront Project.

Sincerely,



Mayor Lucy Vinis