



SPRINGFIELD: 1025 G Street | Springfield, OR 97477
EUGENE: 1464 West 6th Avenue | Eugene, OR 97402
541-345-3628 | www.ccslc.org

June 18, 2021

Attn: Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.
Washington, DC 20590

RE: Franklin Boulevard RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

As part of an organization that instills hope to those most in need, I write to provide my highest recommendation for Eugene's, Springfield's, and Lane Transit District's joint project to invest in Franklin Boulevard with RAISE grant funds. Each day, the work I do as Executive Director of Catholic Community Services of Lane County (CCSLC) reminds me of the positive power of service and reinforces how our work aligns with the priorities of the RAISE program.

CCSLC has helped low-income and homeless individuals and families for almost 70 years and has two locations in Eugene and Springfield. We provide services to thousands of people each year, including basic needs assistance and case-managed support.

There is ever-increasing demand for CCSLC's services and for reliable, affordable transportation options. A significant number of households in our community cannot meet basic needs for food and shelter. In addition, there are a growing number of seniors and persons with disabilities in our region. Many households are paying more than they can afford for housing, and the number of persons experiencing homelessness in our community continues to rise. Escalating costs in housing and other living expenses generates an even greater need to create a better transportation system that is affordable and reliable.

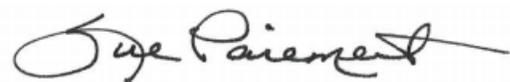
Last fiscal year, our food pantries distributed almost 56,000 food boxes to over 17,000 people and CCSLC coordinated \$1.94 million in utility bill payment assistance to 5,514 households and supported 561 low-income families in their search for affordable rental housing. Our Refugee & Immigrant Services Program works in partnership with Catholic Charities of Oregon in Portland.

CCSLC clients are primarily from the Eugene-Springfield area. Based on a sample of nearly 16,000 people we have served: 84% lived below the federal poverty level, 52% earned less than half of the federal poverty level, 17% were Latinx, 20% were homeless, and 27% reported a disability. CCSLC serves anyone in need in Lane County, whatever their identity, beliefs, or background.

The CCSLC OASIS program, a day access center for homeless families in Springfield, was awarded funds through the 2025 Eugene-Springfield Consolidated Plan process. OASIS provides homeless families priority access to a coordinated set of services offered just one mile from the Franklin Boulevard corridor and only a half-mile from the EmX's central transit station that leads into Franklin Boulevard. Many OASIS clients want to get their transportation situation in order once they are finally able to move into housing. While everyone's transportation needs differ, a constant need that every client has is to be able to receive care in a way that is done with community focus, individual empowerment, and service accessibility.

The Franklin Boulevard project is only one of many ways that will help people gain control of their social, emotional, and physical well-being through freedom of travel choice and through freeing up their transportation costs. Funding this project through the RAISE grant program will finally make this more than just a possibility we hope for.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sue Paiement". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Sue Paiement,
Executive Director

