



May 24, 2021

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

Re: Franklin Boulevard Project RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

Better Eugene-Springfield Transportation urges USDOT to approve the Franklin Boulevard grant application from the cities of Eugene and Springfield, Oregon.

BEST is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that brings people together to promote transportation options, safe streets, and walkable neighborhoods. We are a broad coalition of community leaders representing business, social services, the environment, education, neighborhoods, and communities of faith. We advocate for access, safety, equity, and sustainability.

The Franklin Boulevard project will transform an automobile-oriented state highway designed for the past into a welcoming and vibrant corridor that serves the needs of the present and future. The planned redesign will provide both a sense of place and safe opportunities for people to walk, bicycle or take transit. It will support development of walkable, transit-oriented, climate-friendly neighborhoods in the heart of our community.

The project meets all of the primary criteria for a RAISE grant: It will improve **safety** and accessibility for all people. It will improve the **state of good repair** for a road little changed since Interstate-5 opened in the 1960s. It will advance **economic competitiveness** by supporting land use plans for (re)development. It will improve **environmental sustainability** by increasing the number of people walking, bicycling or riding public transit, thereby reducing motor vehicle emissions. And it will improve **quality of life** by transforming a state highway designed primarily for motor vehicle traffic into a main street designed for people.

Moreover, as a joint effort by the cities of Eugene and Springfield with the support of Lane Transit District, the project meets the secondary criteria of **partnership**. Finally, the project is **innovative** in combining roundabouts with bus rapid transit and multimodal features, reducing conflicts and increasing safety while allowing for efficient traffic flow.

Of all the major transportation projects planned for the Eugene-Springfield area, BEST views the Franklin corridor as the highest priority and most critical. For all these reasons, BEST recommends awarding a RAISE grant for the Franklin Boulevard project. Please let me know if you have any questions.

For BEST,

Rob Zako, Executive Director

Building a successful community by bringing people together
to promote transportation options, safe streets, and walkable neighborhoods.

Better Eugene-Springfield Transportation • PO Box 773, Eugene, OR 97440 • 541-343-5201

info@best-oregon.org • www.best-oregon.org • www.facebook.com/BetterEugeneSpringfieldTransportation

BEST is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit. Contributions are tax-deductible to the extent the law allows. Tax ID #42-1661720.

19 May, 2021

Attn: Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

RE: Franklin Boulevard Project RAISE Application

Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of people who ride bicycles for transportation and recreation throughout the greater Eugene area, we are expressing to you a great need to rebuild Franklin Boulevard. We are eager for USDOT to fund the Franklin Boulevard application from the Cities of Eugene and Springfield, Oregon.

Funding overdue fixes to Franklin Boulevard will directly support the RAISE 2021 program goals by increasing safety and economic competitiveness, investing in equity and sustainability, and greatly improving people's quality of life. Greater Eugene Area Riders (GEARs) looks forward to being able to safely use the Franklin Boulevard corridor for our weekly recreational rides. Upon completion of the needed investments, we will have new route options that allow us to enjoy the amenities the heart of our metropolitan area offers as we pass through and access the many beautiful scenic rides and special places available throughout Lane County, Oregon.

The City of Springfield constructed the first phase of the project in a cost-effective and timely manner that resulted in dedicated, fully separated bicycle facilities that are comfortable for riders of all ages and abilities. The project is filling a key regional bicycle network gap. In Franklin's current condition, people risk their own safety by riding in a wide, high-speed travel lane mixed with motor vehicles, buses, and freight trucks. The project will complete the regional network along this arterial street and greatly improve the safety for (a) all of us who currently ride bikes, and (b) all the people who will feel comfortable and secure choosing to ride when safe, separated facilities are available.

Transforming Franklin Boulevard will also greatly enhance our economy and improve the health and quality of life for residents and visitors. The reconstructed street will reduce the burdens of commuting and provide increased transportation options for overburdened communities by providing an innovative street design that supports increased accessibility and safety for everyone, regardless of whether they walk, bike, take transit, or drive. The project increases regional connectivity and provides reliable, affordable, sustainable, and healthy options for moving people and goods throughout our region.

Sincerely,



Karen Goodwin, GEARs Board President



GREATER EUGENE AREA RIDERS

June 10, 2021

Attn: Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

RE: Franklin Boulevard RAISE Application

Secretary Buttigieg:

We are writing to you on behalf of the Eugene Active Transportation Committee, a group of residents advising the City's Public Works Department on improvements to the bicycle and pedestrian network that will make our transportation system safe and accessible for all users. We request that the USDOT consider awarding Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant funding to the application submitted jointly by the Cities of Eugene and Springfield, Oregon, with support from the Lane Transit District, to move this transformative project into its next phase.

Funding the next phase of the overdue redesign of Franklin Boulevard will directly support the RAISE 2021 program goals by increasing safety, contributing to the economy, and greatly improving quality of life. The reconstructed street will reduce the burdens of commuting as well as reduce transportation costs by providing an innovative street design that supports increased improved safety and capacity for people walking, biking, taking transit and driving. The project increases connectivity to residents and visitors being able to more safely enjoy the amenities at the heart of our metropolitan area on foot, bike, and public transportation. We urge you to grant your full support to this project.

Sincerely,

Grace Kaplowitz, Co-Chair
Daniel Wilson, Co-Chair
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Papa Awori, Member
Anne Brown, Member
Mary Christensen, Member
Julie Daniel, Member
Allen Hancock, Member

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Peter Knox, Member
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Andrew Martin, Member
Josh Mendez, Member
Andrea Plesnarski, Member
Sue Wolling, Member