

July 7, 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:

We are writing on behalf of the Lane County legislative delegation to express our strong support for the joint application by the Cities of Eugene and Springfield, Oregon for RAISE grant funding to reconstruct the Franklin Boulevard Corridor. This corridor connects the communities of Eugene and Springfield, providing critical access to employment, educational opportunities, services, and other amenities. Investing in the Franklin Boulevard project will foster economic development opportunities that will enhance not only these communities but also the regional and rural areas it serves. This project will have a positive impact far beyond the boundaries of our legislative districts, as communities from the Oregon Coast to the Cascade Mountains are accessible to and from the Franklin Boulevard corridor.

This project is a top priority for the region and will stimulate economic recovery by providing good paying jobs. It will equitably support safety and promote sustainability by facilitating efficient, multi-modal travel through the corridor. The addition of a second bi-directional lane of travel for Lane Transit District's (LTD) busiest bus rapid transit (EmX) route will allow for 7-minute service, helping to further increase ridership. Additionally, with LTD's plan to replace 100% of its fleet with zero emission buses by 2035, we can envision a future corridor with clean, quiet, efficient buses transporting people to work, school, and other services and activities.

With our strong and continued support, the state of Oregon has made significant investments in this corridor, and we eagerly await the economic opportunities made possible by these public investments. Upgrades to Franklin Boulevard will further enhance access to Hayward Field and the Matthew Knight Arena and build upon the region's ability to host nationally and internationally significant events, including the U.S. Olympic Track and Field Trials which typically draws tens of thousands of visitors. Cities throughout rural Lane County are investing in tourism as a leading economic strategy and focusing on supporting small businesses to grow and be successful. Tourists have the opportunity to visit smaller cities and explore our recreational offerings within an hour's drive while enjoying local shops, breweries, wineries, and lodging.

This corridor also provides access to Bushnell University, Lane Community College, the University of Oregon, and UO's Knight Science Campus. Many rural students, faculty, and residents benefit from these educational opportunities that enhance and enrich our region.

The state has already supported funding for the initial phase of reconstructing Franklin Boulevard, which was completed in 2018, allocating \$6,000,000 in Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) Enhance Program state funds and \$625,000 in ODOT ConnectOregon lottery revenue funds. We appreciate the collaboration with both our local communities and our federal partners in providing resources to build a safer, more sustainable, more equitable and prosperous Franklin Boulevard Corridor.

Thank you for considering our recommendation to support this transformative project and award a RAISE grant to the Eugene-Springfield, Oregon region.

Sincerely



Senator Lee Beyer, Springfield



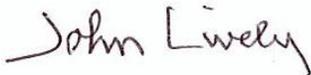
Senator Floyd Prozanski, Eugene



Senator James Manning, Eugene



Representative Paul Holvey, Eugene



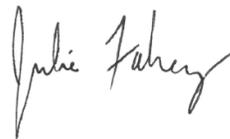
Representative John Lively, Springfield



Representative Nancy Nathanson, Eugene



Representative Marty Wilde, Eugene



Representative Julie Fahey, Eugene