



Since 1935

July 8, 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:

Please consider our utmost support for our government partner's top priority to repair deteriorating infrastructure: specifically, the Franklin Boulevard project. The Wildish family and companies bring trusted, reputable, and skilled jobs to some of the region's most iconic projects – both completed and planned. We trust that the City of Eugene's, City of Springfield's, and Land Transit District's (LTD's) unwavering commitment to reconstructing Franklin Boulevard will result in one more of these successfully completed projects.

Along with Springfield's engineering and architectural teams, Wildish worked with the City to advance the community's vision for Glenwood to bring the award-winning Boulevard design concept to completion for Phase 1 of Franklin Boulevard in 2018. This resulted in over 90 construction jobs that met or exceeded Oregon's prevailing wage requirements. Wildish also worked with the City of Eugene to begin transforming Franklin Boulevard west of I-5, and we have first-hand knowledge of what it takes to build an innovative bus rapid transit system since paving the way for the first 14 miles of LTD's regional EmX line in 2007.

Wildish remains committed to the future of the entire Franklin Boulevard corridor, both as a contractor and employer, but also as a legacy land owner of more than 70 years, planning and investing to enhance our properties along the Franklin Boulevard corridor. The riverfront corridor stretching from Downtown Eugene east to vibrant Downtown Springfield is booming with construction and investment projects that offer sustainable and transit-oriented development. These current and planned projects totaling over \$500 million of investment require proven project delivery to support it. The Franklin Boulevard project will provide critically needed living wage jobs, helping to making our local economies recover and become more resilient in the long term.

We join many others in support of this project. "The best of community" goes beyond a project site. Wildish encourages and supports employees in their volunteer pursuits serving the environment, youth and family services, housing services, healthcare, the arts and education. As members of the US Green Building Council, our employees' educational pursuits on the latest techniques in energy-efficient construction are at the forefront of our professional development program. We encourage employees at every level to pursue LEED Accreditation and reimburse employees for costs associated with their LEED Accreditation and continuing education. Currently, all Wildish Building managers are LEED accredited.

We share the values of exceptional service to community with the Cities of Springfield and Eugene and with LTD. We look forward to seeing our government partners bring Franklin Boulevard to a place that will move us into a future that our workforce and their families depend on.

Respectfully,

Steven J. Wildish  
Vice President, Wildish Companies

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