



## Letter of Intent

DATE: June 21, 2021

TO: Sarah Medary, City Manager, City of Eugene, Oregon

Via e-mail to: SMedary@eugene-or.gov

FROM: Aurora Jackson, General Manager, Lane Transit District

RE: Franklin Boulevard: A Partnership to Rebuild and Revive a Corridor and RAISE Grant Application

The *Franklin Boulevard: A Partnership to Rebuild and Revive a Corridor* project (“project”) is a partnership between the Cities of Eugene, Springfield, and Lane Transit District (LTD). The purpose of this multi-modal project is to: improve safety for all users of Franklin Boulevard; support equity by providing access and mobility for all modes of transportation, including transit; promote sustainability by enhancing transit and other non-vehicular modes of transport; create access to active transportation modes connecting all surrounding communities to the regional center for jobs, education, and social services; and catalyze investment in the economic resilience of both cities and beyond.

The project includes construction of roundabouts at dangerous intersections with fatal crash histories, safe crossings for people walking and biking, protected bikeways, wide sidewalks, stormwater facilities, and transit elements to support LTD’s busiest EmX bus rapid transit service line, such as double-tracking on the dedicated guideway in Eugene, eliminating unnecessary stop lights in Springfield, and relocating stations with recycled materials when possible. The project area begins at Oregon Highway 225 in Springfield and ends in Alder Street in Eugene. Eugene and Springfield are jointly submitting a RAISE grant application for Phase 2 of this project. Phase 2 extends from Mississippi Avenue to Henderson Avenue in Springfield and continues west of I-5 from Walnut Street to Alder Street in Eugene.

The Franklin EmX segment has become the spine of LTD’s entire transit network; it serves the greatest number of riders in the LTD system and provides a major transportation link within the metro area. The EmX service along the Franklin Boulevard corridor frequently experiences overcrowding. Travel times suffer due to congestion during peak periods caused by the currently constrained bi-directional dedicated guideway segments that limit the practical operational frequency of EmX service to 10 minutes.

The project advances LTD’s ability to provide the transit level of service that is needed to support growing transit ridership critical to providing equity and access for the community. The addition of a new dedicated guideway in Eugene would allow LTD to decrease its existing headway from 10 minutes to 7 minutes through this segment. In addition, the goals of the project are consistent with LTD’s mission statement and the goals and objectives specified in our *Long-Range Transit Plan* and in LTD’s *Climate Action Policy*, adopted by the Board in 2020.

LTD staff has been actively involved with both communities in this project as a technical advisor and funding partner from its inception. LTD leadership has also been actively involved, alongside Eugene and Springfield staff, in advocating for the project and discussing project readiness with state and federal legislators and transportation agencies. Over the past several years, this multi-agency team has been highly engaged with the Federal Transit Administration, to express our shared vision for this project.

LTD has allocated \$5 million in general fund resources as a local match.

Eugene and Springfield are jointly submitting a federal RAISE grant application for Phase 2 of this project. Eugene will be the primary applicant, Springfield will be the co-applicant, and LTD will support this application as a contributing partner agency.

A project update was presented to LTD's Board of Directors on Wednesday, June 16, 2021. After hearing the presentation, the Board approved and resolved to:

- Support the *Franklin Boulevard: A Partnership to Rebuild and Revive a Corridor* project.
- Participate in the RAISE grant application as a contributing partner agency.
- Commit to provide its \$5M General Fund resources as local match for the transit elements of the project in Eugene.
- If the grant is awarded to the project, a memorandum of understanding or Intergovernmental Agreement will formalize LTD's partnership.

Tiffany Edwards, Intergovernmental Relations Manager, is LTD's Project Manager for this project and your primary contact. Jennifer may be reached by phone at 541-678-3370 or via e-mail at [tiffany.edwards@ltd.org](mailto:tiffany.edwards@ltd.org)

Regards,



Aurora Jackson  
General Manager

Enclosure: 2021-06-16-033 LTD Board Resolution

Cc: Tiffany Edwards,  
Intergovernmental Relations Manager, LTD



**RESOLUTION NO. 2020-04-29-023**

**LTD SUPPORT OF FRANKLIN BOULEVARD OPPORTUNITY ZONE CORRIDOR PROJECT AND BUILD GRANT APPLICATION**

**WHEREAS**, the Franklin segment of LTD's EmX system is the critical spine of LTD's overall metropolitan transit network, providing a critical regional transportation link;

**WHEREAS**, the capacity of the Franklin segment of LTD's EmX system is constrained by of one-way segments and currently experiences passenger overloading and travel time impacts associated with congestion and improvements are needed to maintain safety and a sustainable level of service;

**WHEREAS**, the cities of Eugene and Springfield and LTD have been partnering on two multi-modal projects (collectively *Franklin Boulevard Opportunity Zone Corridor* project [project]) to improve safety, catalyze investment, add transit capacity, and create access to active transportation modes along Franklin Boulevard;

**WHEREAS**, LTD was awarded \$5,119,541 via House Bill 5006, adopted during the 2017 regular session of the 79th Oregon Legislative Assembly, currently held by the state of Oregon as Lottery Bond resources;

**WHEREAS**, the cities of Eugene and Springfield are jointly applying for a federal BUILD grant to advance Phase 2 of the *Franklin Boulevard Opportunity Zone Corridor* project and have requested that LTD participate as a contributing agency;

**WHEREAS**, the goals of the *Franklin Boulevard Opportunity Zone Corridor* project are consistent with LTD's mission statement and the goals and objectives specified in LTD's *Long-Range Transit Plan*; and

**WHEREAS**, the project advances LTD's ability to enhance the transit level of service along the most traveled spine of the EmX system.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the LTD Board of Directors, adopts a resolution establishing the following:

- LTD supports the *Franklin Boulevard Opportunity Zone Corridor* project;
- LTD will participate in the BUILD grant application as a contributing agency;
- LTD commits, in principal, to provide its \$5M Lottery Bond resources as local match for the grant application; and,
- If the grant is awarded to the project, LTD will formalize this partnership in a memorandum of agreement.

ADOPTED BY THE LANE TRANSIT DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS ON THIS 29<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF APRIL, 2020.

  
Carl Yeh (Apr 30, 2020)

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Board President, Carl Yeh