

June 23, 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

Secretary Buttigieg:

We stand in solidarity knowing that it's time to invest in our future. We write to you with enthusiasm for the Franklin Boulevard project submitted by the Cities of Eugene and Springfield. Federal financial support through the RAISE program means economic prosperity and better lives for our union members and beyond. The vision for Franklin Boulevard represents infrastructure constructed by, for, and with people in mind as part of the solution.

Our members are dedicated to providing professional carpentry. We have celebrated and advocated for these hard working men and women for more than 100 years. Contractors' success (and ultimately project success) is our success. We are committed to the stability, safety, and overall welfare of our skilled workforce. Our partnerships with our members build our country's resilient future—literally and figuratively—by providing quality, good paying construction jobs.

The Franklin Boulevard project embodies our high standards for safety, innovative spirit, and productivity that we strive to see in each of our members. As we lead the way in educating and representing the next generation of skilled construction professionals, we anticipate projects like Franklin Boulevard to bring us to the forefront of transportation excellence. With career-minded, long-term commitment, our workforce holds themselves to keeping up with ever-changing materials and new methods in the industry. Some of us provide apprenticeships in clean energy projects to support the enormous public and private investments made in state-of-the-art innovation and technology in our infrastructure. Some of us also actively support clean energy tax incentives to connect our energy future to family-sustaining jobs that pay prevailing wages.

Members' longstanding experience working in the Eugene-Springfield area—including the completed first phase of the Franklin Boulevard Project—proves testament to how the project can initially boost and also sustain our local, regional, and national economies. Projects like this bring promise to our local workforce's economic health, which is a fundamental building block for other measures of personal health and for community wealth. Our contractors also rely on the well-managed health care, pensions, and other programs we provide to ensure benefits remain affordable and attainable.

Our workforce brings pride to what they do and are reminded of how rewarding this work is each time they pass by and use the infrastructure constructed as part of completed projects that fulfill

community needs. We hope that Franklin Boulevard will be one of these projects, resulting in jobs well-paid and a job well-done. We urge you to award this joint agency request for RAISE funding and thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Jeff Harms
United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America, Local 271

