

1342 1/2 66th St
Springfield OR 97478
September 14, 2009

Secretary of Transportation
Joel Szabat, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Transportation Policy
U.S. Department of Transportation
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Mr. Szabat:

I would like to add my support to the City of Springfield's funding request through the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery grant process to begin the redesign and reconstruction of Franklin Boulevard in Glenwood. The multi-way boulevard aspects of the project, including dedicated EmX transit lanes offer the potential for important transit-oriented redevelopment that could not only serve as an important foundation for Springfield's future but also as a model for our community, proving it can continue to grow without unending expansion of our urban growth boundaries.

As a former Lane County Planning Commissioner, member of the Lane County Boundary Commission, and most recently as a member of Springfield's Commercial and Industrial Buildable Lands Inventory stakeholder committee and Springfield's Citizen Advisory Committee on Systems Development Charges, it is clear to me that our community must look to a new paradigm for growth in the future. Redesigning Franklin Boulevard into a multi-way boulevard is a great example of how to do more with less. This project will spend and leverage our infrastructure dollars wisely. It will provide the impetus for private investment.

Oregon's Willamette Valley is one of the few places on earth that could be self-sufficient in food, fiber and fuel. Protecting our natural resource and agricultural lands is critical to our future. As a member of Lane County Farm Bureau's Board of Directors, I serve on Oregon Farm Bureau's Land Use Advisory Committee. The continuing loss of prime farm land to urban sprawl is a significant and ongoing concern. The Franklin Boulevard Project, and its potential to pave the way for additional multi-way boulevard redevelopment along Springfield's east Main Street, could result in significantly less urban sprawl for our community - translating into fewer acres of farmland converted to urban uses and much more efficient and cost-effective infrastructure.

Now is the time to build upon that vision. Please support the Franklin Boulevard Project by making sure it Springfield's request is adequately funded by a Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery grant.

Thanks for your consideration.

Regards,

George Grier