



September 10, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Szabat,

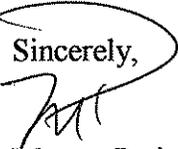
This letter conveys my very enthusiastic support and endorsement for the City of Springfield's funding request through the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grant process to redesign and reconstruct Franklin Boulevard in Glenwood. The multi-way boulevard aspects of the project, along with dedicated EmX transit lanes between the Downtowns of Springfield and Eugene, and important bicycle and pedestrian facilities are long needed improvements that will have a dramatic impact on travel choices and the quality of the Glenwood neighborhood.

Franklin Boulevard is the main east-west roadway connecting Springfield and Eugene, providing access to the University of Oregon, and connecting both downtowns to I-5. Yet it is woefully inadequate as an urban arterial. Despite its central location in the urban area and the fact that it provides a critical transportation link between Eugene and Springfield, the roadway lacks such basic amenities as sidewalks, bike lanes, street trees, and a functional storm water system. It also lacks the level of transit amenities found along other sections of Lane Transit District's initial EmX (bus rapid transit) line.

The citizens of this community deserve better, and I feel that the Franklin Boulevard Project is the right answer to these problems.

It generates construction jobs in the short term and creates economic development opportunities that will provide jobs far into the future. As a leader in our area's business community, I know that this transportation improvement will make a significant and corresponding improvement in the businesses directly impacted as well as those adjacent to the improved Boulevard. This upgrade will spur economic growth and supply much-needed new jobs for our citizens.

Please support this important and innovative Franklin Boulevard Project.

Sincerely,


Murray Petitt, President-elect
Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce