

September 12, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Szabat:

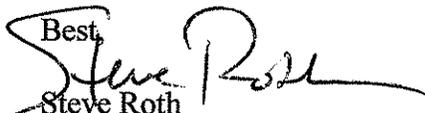
There is an application for a very important \$49.5 million TIGER grant from the city of Springfield, Lane County Transit District, and Oregon Department of Transportation being submitted to the Department of Transportation. As a long time property owner and small business operator (land has been in the family since 1958) within the proposed project area, I'd like to offer enthusiastic support.

I have been involved with local improvement efforts for the Glenwood riverfront district (which includes the Franklin Boulevard corridor which is the focus of the grant application) for many years. This busy and critical east-west transit corridor is located in the geographic heart of the Eugene/Springfield metro area and provides direct connection to both downtowns, the University of Oregon, Interstate 5, and a "diamond in the rough" riverfront with incredible potential.

Amazingly enough, no new development has taken place in this central core of Oregon's second largest metro area for as long as I can remember. The number one reason I hear from those who can make substantial development projects become reality is the current "woeful" state of Franklin Blvd. and the corresponding inability to access the riverfront. Our community has worked hard on the goal of revitalizing this transit corridor and many hours have been spent by folks just like me on citizen advisory committees, city councils, the chamber of commerce, and the list goes on and on. We need your help.

I have no doubt that this investment by the Department of Transportation will be "transformational" for this core urban area and the seeds which are planted as a direct result of the Franklin Multi-Way Boulevard Project will grow many new and sustainable jobs, new commercial and mixed use development, an exciting variety of new housing opportunities for all income levels, and be a wonderful example of how a smart transit project can work hand in hand with a local community to "hit one out of the ball park!"

Thanks in advance for your support.

Best,

Steve Roth
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