

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

September 15, 2009

Mr. Joel Szabat
Deputy Assistant Secretary for Transportation Policy
Ms. Lana Hurdle
Deputy Assistant Secretary for Budget and Programs
U.S. Department of Transportation
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Mr. Szabat and Ms. Hurdle,

We write to express our support for the joint application by the City of Springfield, Oregon, the Lane Transit District (LTD) and the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) for a Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grant made available under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009.

This project is consistent with the intent of the recovery act to reduce our nation's carbon footprint and dependence on foreign oil, while simultaneously creating jobs and spurring economic development in depressed areas. The City of Springfield, LTD and ODOT would use these funds for a multi-modal project along Franklin Boulevard in the Glenwood area from downtown Springfield to the University of Oregon in Eugene. Franklin Boulevard is the only section along the LTD EmX bus rapid transit line that is currently without dedicated transit lanes.

Our nation's economic recession has significantly impacted the entire state of Oregon, which currently is suffering under a staggering 12.2% unemployment rate. According to ODOT estimates, upgrading Franklin Boulevard would create significant numbers of new jobs over the life of the project. When completed, the project will enhance safety, streamline traffic, add sidewalks, bicycle lanes, and a storm water system. In addition, the redevelopment of the Glenwood area will promote long-term employment opportunities in a community desperately in need of economic stimulus.

Thank you for your full and fair review of this joint grant application. If you have any questions, please contact Juine Chada in Senator Wyden's Eugene office at (541) 431-0229 or Dan Whelan in Senator Merkley's Eugene office at (541) 465-6750.

Sincerely,



RON WYDEN
United States Senator



JEFF MERKLEY
United States Senator