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:

Please accept my enthusiastic endorsement of support for the City of Springfield's funding request through the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grant process to redesign and reconstruct Franklin Boulevard through Glenwood. The multi-way boulevard aspects of the project, along with dedicated EmX transit lanes between the Downtowns of Eugene and Springfield, 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 neighborhoods.

Franklin Boulevard is the main east-west roadway connecting Springfield and Eugene, providing access to the University of Oregon, connecting both downtowns to I-5, and secondary route for the new Riverbend Hospital complex in the Gateway area. Yet it is woefully inadequate as an urban arterial. Despite its central location in the urban area Franklin Boulevard carries about one-half the traffic flow of Interstate-5 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. With these improvements we'll greatly increase the safety of transportation and provide more efficient traffic flow along Franklin Boulevards as well as giving commuters more options for efficient travel. These improvements will be the anchor for private sector investment in commercial real estate development Glenwood.

It generates construction jobs in the short term and creates economic development opportunities that will provide jobs in the future. Since it will drastically improve pedestrian, bicycle, and transit facilities, the project will encourage the use of alternative transportation modes, thereby addressing national goals to reduce carbon emissions and dependency on foreign oil. Now is the time to build the vision.

Please support this Franklin Boulevard Project.

Sincerely,

David V. Carvo
Chair, Glenwood Water District