**Mayor's Office**
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September 15, 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 encourage you to fund the request by the City of Springfield, Lane Transit District, and the Oregon Department of Transportation for a Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grant for improvements to Franklin Boulevard in the Glenwood area of Springfield, Oregon. We believe this cutting-edge, multi-modal project can lead to redevelopment of an area that can become one of the primary economic drivers for the community.

The Glenwood area is truly a "diamond in the rough." It is located along a beautiful river; is centrally located in the urban area; and has great access to downtown Eugene, downtown Springfield, and the University of Oregon. This area has the potential to be a thriving economic engine for the Eugene-Springfield area. To reach that potential, Franklin Boulevard, its primary street, must be upgraded significantly. Currently, Franklin Boulevard lacks sidewalks, bike lanes, a stormwater system, and is an extremely unattractive roadway. This project would address those deficiencies and add transit lanes for Lane Transit District's EmX (bus rapid transit) service. In addition, the project would create a multi-way boulevard, an innovative concept that allows for convenient movement of through traffic while also creating a high level of access to adjacent businesses and a safe and convenient pedestrian and bicycle environment. The multi-way boulevard concept is one that can be applied to urban arterials throughout the United States.

This project clearly meets the criteria of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. It will generate construction jobs in the short term, create economic development opportunities that will provide future jobs, and address goals to reduce carbon emissions and dependency on foreign oil. I encourage you to fund this important project.

Sincerely,

Kitty Piercy

Kitty Piercy
Mayor

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