



September 9th 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 am writing this letter in support of the City of Springfield's request to begin the redesign and reconstruction of Franklin Boulevard in Glenwood, with funding from a Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery grant. Converting Franklin to a multi-way boulevard, along with dedicated EmX transit lanes and badly needed bicycle and pedestrian facilities would be a long delayed improvement that will have a dramatic impact on travel choices and the quality of the Glenwood neighborhood.

I am the Director of a growing non-profit agency located in Glenwood that has generated over 70,000 private vehicle, bus, foot and bicycle trips in just the past 12 months. We relocated here two years ago specifically because our site lies near this transportation crossroads, allowing people from all over Lane County to access our services. I can testify firsthand just how inadequate this stretch of Franklin Boulevard is, especially as it is the primary east-west roadway connecting Springfield and Eugene, providing access to the University of Oregon, and connecting both downtowns to nearby I-5.

At present, Franklin Boulevard in Glenwood is woefully lacking the standard amenities of a major thoroughfare; safe sidewalks, bike lanes and a dedicated EMX Green line lane. As a regular bike commuter, I risk my safety daily riding next to heavy trucks barreling along full throttle. Lack of sidewalks near residential areas precludes safe passage for pedestrians living in an adjacent residential area and completely cuts off access to anyone in a wheel chair. The citizens of this community deserve better, and I feel that the Franklin Boulevard Project is the right answer to these problems.

A redesigned Franklin Boulevard not only solves the problems for those who live and do business here or pass through; it opens up opportunities to redevelop the Glenwood neighborhood, an underutilized area right in the heart of the Springfield/Eugene metro region. As communities face the pressure to build up, do infill or extend UGB's this is a significant benefit. This project is more than just a roadway redesign, it provides the catalyst for future economic development in an area that badly needs it.

It is now time to build the vision. Please support the Franklin Project. It's necessary, timely and offers a whole lot of benefits for the investment.

Sincerely,

Julie Daniel, Executive Director, BRING Recycling