



## Lane County Board of Commissioners

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Bill Dwyer  
Bill Fleenor  
Rob Handy  
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Faye Hills Stewart

September 1, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Szabat:

The Lane County Board of Commissioners encourages 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. This project clearly meets all the goals for the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, and additionally, addresses national goals to reduce carbon emissions and dependency on foreign oil.

The Glenwood community is centrally located within the urban area and borders the scenic Willamette River. The area has direct access to Interstate 5 and is very close to downtown Eugene, downtown Springfield, and the University of Oregon. Despite these assets, the area is extremely underdeveloped with land uses such as second-hand stores, used car lots, and heavy equipment storage. In order to redevelop, the primary arterial through the area, Franklin Boulevard, must be upgraded. Franklin Boulevard lacks basic amenities such as sidewalks, bicycle lanes, and a stormwater system. It also is the only section along Lane Transit District's EmX (bus rapid transit) line that does not have transit lanes. Redevelopment of the Glenwood area can only occur if Franklin Boulevard is upgraded.

This project clearly meets the criteria of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. It generates construction jobs in the short term, and creates economic development opportunities that will provide future jobs. We encourage you to fund this important project.

Sincerely,

Peter Sorenson, Chair  
Lane County Board of Commissioners