



September 10, 2009

Attn: Secretary of Transportation Ray LaHood  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE  
Washington DC 20590

RE: City of Springfield/Lane Transit District/Oregon Department of Transportation  
TIGER Grant Application

Secretary LaHood:

On behalf of the policy board of the Central Lane Metropolitan Planning Organization, I strongly 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. 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 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, and a functional 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.

The project provides critically needed investment in our transportation infrastructure. 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.

## **CENTRAL LANE METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION**

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This TIGER grant application is strongly supported by Springfield's Mayor and City Council, and the area's Lane Transit District. Please consider my recommendation, as well as theirs, to support this important collaborative transportation project and award this TIGER grant to this community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, sweeping initial 'P' followed by a smaller 'S' and a series of connected loops.

Pete Sorenson, Chair  
Metropolitan Policy Committee