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September 14, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Szabat:

Please accept this enthusiastic letter of support for the City of Springfield's funding request through the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery grant process to begin the redesign and reconstruction of Franklin Boulevard in Glenwood. The multi-way boulevard aspects of the project, along with dedicated EmX transit lanes 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 neighborhood.

I bought my home in Glenwood in 1994, and found a wonderful group of neighbors with concerns about our changing community. I began attending meetings to determine Glenwood's future including mass transportation needs and our Urban Growth Boundary jurisdiction, which was ultimately awarded to the City of Springfield. I have served on several committees including the Glenwood Refinement Plan update of 1998, GRAC, the citizen's advisory committee for urban renewal, and the Franklin Blvd. Study. I am Treasurer for our neighborhood association, Glenwood Society for Livable Communities (GSLC), and committee chair for the 14th Street Multi-Path landscaping project, which is a project of the GSLC. This experience and my nearly 15 years living in Glenwood has convinced me that this area has the potential to become an exceptional community that would profit municipalities, businesses, and residents alike.

Franklin Boulevard is the main east-west roadway connecting Springfield and Eugene, providing access to the University of Oregon, and connecting both downtowns to I-5. At this time, Franklin Boulevard in Glenwood is woefully lacking in any sidewalks and bike lanes and the EMX Green line shares the road with the rest of the traffic. The citizens of this community deserve better, and I feel that the Franklin Boulevard Project is the right answer to these problems.

It is now time to build the vision. Please help us to achieve this noble vision with your most generous support for the Franklin Project.

Sincerely,

Joany Armstead,
Glenwood Resident & Property Owner