



June 1, 2011

To: Metropolitan Policy Committee  
From: Paul Thompson  
Subject: Item 5.d: Letter of Support for City of Eugene Transportation,  
Community, & System Preservation Grant Application

**Action Recommended:** Approve letter for signature by MPC Chair

### **Issue Statement**

This agenda item is to request an MPO Policy Board letter of support for one grant application under development by the City of Eugene.

### **Background**

As reported at the May, 2011 MPC meeting, an unexpected grant opportunity emerged with a very short time frame for submittal of an application. The Transportation, Community, and System Preservation (TCSP) Program provides funding for a comprehensive initiative including planning grants, implementation grants, and research to investigate and address the relationships among transportation, community, and system preservation plans and practices and identify private sector-based initiatives to improve those relationships. States, metropolitan planning organizations, local governments, and tribal governments are eligible for TCSP Program discretionary grants to plan and implement strategies which improve the efficiency of the transportation system, reduce environmental impacts of transportation, reduce the need for costly future public infrastructure investments, ensure efficient access to jobs, services and centers of trade, and examine development patterns and identify strategies to encourage private sector development patterns which achieve these goals.

### **City of Eugene Application**

A letter of support is requested for the City of Eugene Blair Boulevard Active Transportation Corridor project. The project will transform Blair Boulevard, a busy emerging neighborhood "main street" that is currently unsafe for pedestrians and bicyclists, into a complete street that is safe, efficient, functional, and enjoyable by all users of the roadway.

This transformation will include improved street crossings, curb extensions, ADA ramps, narrowing of driveways to reduce pedestrian exposure, improved and wider sidewalks, wayfinding signs, visual and audible countdown signals, bike parking corrals, shared lane markings (sharrows), improved alleys near the roadway to reduce debris on the sidewalk, and landscaping to enhance the safety and comfort of pedestrians and

bicyclists. The project will enhance multi-modal connections between Eugene's extensive bikeway and bus rapid transit networks.

**TPC Recommendation**

On May 26, TPC voted to recommend MPC approve a letter of support.

**Recommendation**

Approve the attached letter of support for signature by MPC Chair

**Attachments**

1. Letter of support for Blair Boulevard Active Transportation Corridor grant application