



August 2, 2010

To: Metropolitan Policy Committee  
From: Andrea Riner  
Subject: Item 5.b: Requests for MPC Letters of Support or Endorsements

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

### **Issue Statement**

This agenda item is to request MPC letters of support or endorsements for three grant applications under development by member agencies of the Central Lane MPO.

### **Background**

Several new grant opportunities have emerged out of the federal Partnership for Sustainable Communities, an interagency collaboration between the Department of Transportation (DOT), the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Guided by six *Livability Principles*, the Partnership aims to remove the traditional silos that exist between federal departments and strategically target the agencies' transportation, land use, environmental, housing and community development resources to provide communities the resources they need to build more livable, sustainable communities. Following is an overview of three of these grant programs:

- *Tiger II/Community Challenge Planning Grants.* This program combines the Department of Transportation's (DOT) Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (Tiger) program with the Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Department's \$40 million Community Challenge Planning Grant Program. This joint funding program is intended to better align transportation, housing, economic development, and land use planning and to improve linkages between DOT and HUD programs.
- *Tiger II Rural Planning Grants.* This funding program is consistent with the description above. Not less than \$140 million of the funds provided for TIGER II Discretionary Grants are to be used for projects in rural areas.
- *Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grants.* This program is intended to support metropolitan and multijurisdictional planning efforts that integrate housing, land use, economic and workforce development, transportation, and infrastructure investments in a manner that empowers jurisdictions to consider the interdependent challenges of economic competitiveness and revitalization; social equity, inclusion, and access to opportunity; energy use and climate change; and public health and environmental impact.

## **Regional Applications**

Letters of support are requested for the Franklin Corridor and Territorial Highway projects. A note of endorsement is requested for the Central Lane MPO's participation in the consortium for a Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant.

### **Franklin Corridor Partnership: Complete Neighborhoods, Complete Streets**

The Cities of Eugene and Springfield, Lane Transit District, and the Oregon Department of Transportation are partnering on a combined *Tiger II/Community Challenge Planning Grant* application. The grant would allow the Cities to implement elements of the Walnut Station Mixed Use Center plan in Eugene and the Glenwood Refinement Plan/Franklin Boulevard Study in Springfield. The goal of the project is to create vibrant, pedestrian friendly mixed use neighborhoods within an existing transit corridor with great redevelopment potential. Conversion of Franklin Boulevard to a complete multi-modal transportation system is a core component of the project. For additional information regarding this project please contact Springfield Transportation Planner David Reesor at 541-726-4585 or via email at [dreesor@ci.springfield.or.us](mailto:dreesor@ci.springfield.or.us).

### **Territorial Highway**

Lane County is pursuing a *Tiger II Rural Planning Grant* to fund safety, bicycle and pedestrian improvements on Territorial Highway as part of an effort to promote Lane County tourism and economic development. Several rural communities are served by the highway which also provides access to eleven Lane County wineries and used by thousands of bicycle touring enthusiasts on an annual basis. For additional information regarding this project please contact Lane County Transportation Planning and Traffic Manager Celia Barry at 541-682-6935 or via email at [celia.barry@co.lane.or.us](mailto:celia.barry@co.lane.or.us).

### **Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant**

A regional consortium of agencies, including the Cities of Springfield and Eugene, Lane Transit District, Lane County, and the Central Lane MPO are developing a proposal for a *Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant*. The intent of the proposal will be to build regional capacity for sustainable planning and development. This will include the development of a collaborative interagency Sustainability Resource team of public and private housing, transportation, and economic development interests in the region, identification of opportunities and barriers, and creation of a sustainable communities toolkit. For additional information regarding this project please contact LCOG Transportation Program Manager Andrea Riner at 541-682-6512 or via email at [ariner@lcog.org](mailto:ariner@lcog.org).

## **TPC Recommendation**

On August 2<sup>nd</sup>, TPC voted to recommend MPC endorse each of these proposals.

### **Recommendation**

1. Approve the attached letter of support for signature by MPC Chair Alan Zelenka for the Tiger II/Community Challenge Planning Grant for Franklin Corridor Partnership: Complete Neighborhoods, Complete Streets
2. Approve the attached letter of support for signature by MPC Chair Alan Zelenka for the Tiger II Rural Planning Grant for Territorial Highway.
3. Endorse the regions work in pursuing a Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant (no letter required).

### **Attachments**

1. Letter of support for the Tiger II/Community Challenge Planning Grant for Franklin Corridor Partnership: Complete Neighborhoods, Complete Streets
2. Letter of support for the Tiger II Rural Planning Grant for Territorial Highway.