



September 18, 2019

Metropolitan Policy Committee
Central Lane MPO
859 Willamette St.
Suite 500
Eugene, OR 97401

Dear Chair Vinis and MPC members,

I am writing today in support of Point2Point Solution's grant request for \$106,268 in STBG funds to continue funding for the Springfield Safe Routes to School (SRTS) program. I speak on behalf of the Safe Routes Partnership, working in Oregon via the Pacific Northwest Regional Network. We are a national non-profit that works to advance safe walking and bicycling to and from schools, to improve the health and wellbeing of kids of all races, income levels, and abilities, and to foster the creation of healthy communities for everyone.

The Safe Routes Partnership believes that comprehensive SRTS initiatives are most effective when built upon the "6 E's" framework, which includes Education, Encouragement, Engineering, Enforcement, Evaluation and Equity. While Equity stands alone as its own E, it's also important to build equity into each aspect of a comprehensive SRTS program.

As part of regional SRTS efforts, the Springfield program has successfully integrated equity into every facet of its work. The Springfield SRTS program has accomplished equity goals in providing culturally competent safety education and encouragement events for children and parents, with a special focus on reaching underserved populations. They've assisted with prioritizing infrastructure projects for Title I schools and frontline communities who are disproportionately disadvantaged and at risk of being injured or killed in motor vehicle crashes. Springfield has also effectively approached evaluation with an equity lens, developing tools that go below the surface to identify systemic barriers. The Springfield program truly is a leading example to other communities of what successful, equitable Safe Routes to School programming looks like.

It's critical that the Springfield program receives the funding needed to continue serving its students and families. Please demonstrate your support for the Safe Routes to School in Springfield, and approve STGB funds for fiscal years 2020 and 2021.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment, and for your consideration of this important application.

Sincerely,

Becky Gilliam

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