

MPC 6.e
MEMORANDUM

Date: September 27th, 2022

To: Metropolitan Policy Committee Members of Central Lane MPO

From: Rob Inerfeld, Transportation Planning Manager, City of Eugene, Public Works Engineering
Email: rinerfeld@eugene-or.gov

Subject: Reconnecting Communities Pilot (RCP) Program Grant Application Letter of Support

The City of Eugene is applying for the [U.S. Department of Transportation's Reconnecting Community Pilot Grant program \(RCP\)](#) capital construction grant funding for the **River Road-Santa Clara pedestrian-bicycle bridge**. The purpose of this funding is to solicit applications for supporting planning, capital construction, and technical assistance to restore community connectivity through the removal, retrofit, mitigation, or replacement of eligible transportation infrastructure facilities. It is the first-ever Federal program dedicated to reconnecting communities previously cut off from economic opportunities by transportation infrastructure.

The scope of the grant application will include asking for **\$6,500,000** in construction costs for the **River Road-Santa Clara pedestrian-bicycle bridge**. For Capital Construction Grants, the USDOT expects the minimum award to be \$5,000,000 and the maximum to be \$30,000,000.

Construction of this bridge will eliminate the need to traverse several of Eugene's most dangerous intersections and advance road user safety, particularly for students walking or biking that must cross a highway interchange to get to school, by furnishing access to safer neighborhood streets.

A significant barrier to community connectivity between Santa Clara and River Road will be eradicated by constructing this bridge, including barriers to safe mobility, access, and economic development resulting from the high speeds and grade separations on the Beltline highway.

Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) also supports the City of Eugene's Reconnecting Communities grant application and is actively involved in identifying funding opportunities for this bridge listed under its STIP [project number: 22422](#).

The Central Lane MPO has also identified the **River Road-Santa Clara pedestrian-bicycle bridge** as one of the regional priority investment projects in the MPO's *Regional Transportation Plan 2045*. That said, supporting member agency multimodal activities, including this application, help bring Central Lane MPO's goals to fruition.

RECOMMENDATION: Approval of a letter of support for the City of Eugene for the FY22 Reconnecting Communities Pilot (RCP) Program Grant Application.