

LETTER OF SUPPORT

September 14, 2022

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

SUBJECT: Support for City of Eugene's SS4A Application for FY22 River Road Safety Enhancements

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

We thank you for your commitment to investing in our nation's infrastructure. I am writing this letter on behalf of the Policy Board for the Central Lane Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) to express my strong support for the City of Eugene's Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) fiscal year 2022 application for road safety improvements on River Road.

Among the five traffic corridors approved by the Eugene City Council to improve transportation options and increase safety, River Road is by far the most pressing one in terms of safety. River Road is a high crash corridor that has led to fatalities involving people walking, biking, or traveling to or from the bus. As such, the city is applying for funding that will be critical for building the active transportation infrastructure needed to unlock the full economic and transportation potential of the River Road and Santa Clara neighborhoods, while also improving safety on the corridor.

This funding will enhance road safety infrastructure on the River Road corridor and address barriers to low-income individuals, especially the school-aged student population, who either walk or bike to school. River Road safety measures and enhancements are crucial to meet the city's Vision Zero safety goals, and this funding will offer significant opportunities to bring more safety funding to neighborhoods that have been split apart by an arterial street in an area that is underserved.

In conclusion, we are certain that this grant will help eliminate traffic fatalities and severe injuries among all road users — while increasing safe, healthy, and equitable mobility on River Road. Please join us in supporting the City of Eugene's vision and affirmation of advancing transportation equity and climate justice, and creating safe and active streets for all by supporting its grant application. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Randy Groves
Metropolitan Policy Committee, Chair
Eugene City Councilor, Ward 8