



December 1, 2022

The Honorable Deanne Criswell  
The Office Administrator  
Federal Emergency Management (FEMA)  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
245 Murray Lane, SW  
Washington, DC 20528-00275

**SUBJECT: Support for the City of Eugene's BRIC and FMA Grant Application**

Dear Office Administrator Criswell,

We thank you for your dedication and commitment to supporting residents and emergency personnel in building, maintaining, and enhancing our nation's capacity to equip for, prevent, respond to, recover from, and mitigate all hazards.

I am writing this letter on behalf of the Metropolitan Policy Committee, the Policy Board for the Central Lane Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), to express my strong support for the City's Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) and Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) applications. The proposed projects are meant to ensure Eugene's community well-being and access to safe roads and emergency response systems regardless of the potential hazards, all while advancing the City's vision of climate and emergency equity, climate justice, and creating safe and active streets for all.

Building an expanded and resilient Public Works campus and developing strategies for the site's first phase is critical to the City's proposed BRIC projects. As the Public Works Department's Operations Center (DOC) and Incident Command Post (ICP), the Public Works campus on Roosevelt Boulevard provides emergency response services to the City, including transportation system operations, wastewater transport to the regional treatment plant, stormwater transport, and response to environmental spills. The BRIC funding will provide consulting services & facilitate project scoping and planning to help the facility remain operational during a natural disaster.

The FMA funding is essential to replace the W 11th Avenue Bridge, which operates as a critical crossing passage of Amazon Creek into Eugene. This bridge, set on a major arterial, also features an undercrossing of the shared-use Fern Ridge Path, a vital link between downtown and west Eugene. The path floods yearly, and no design alternatives can reduce the present flood capacity in the Amazon Creek floodway, making it impossible for anyone to access the path during heavy rain.

Per a 2019 inspection report, the original bridge built in the 1970s had a sufficiency rating of 54.2 out of 100, which is not compliant with the Oregon Department of Transportation's (ODOT) guidelines that require bridges to withstand fifty-year flood flows. This bridge needs immediate attention with the inability to withstand potential seismic events, structural conditions, and the deteriorating conditions of the path stimulated by the creek.

Our community, while resilient, is also at a high risk of a powerful seismic disaster as Eugene is located in the valley directly east of the Cascadia Subduction Zone. Referencing the 2020 McKenzie River Valley Holiday Farm Fire, which burned 173,393 acres and displaced 2,500 residents, the City is also susceptible to catastrophic wildfires within and has seen the devastation neighboring communities have experienced.

In conclusion, we are confident that the FEMA funding will reduce the negative impacts of a natural disaster while enhancing our communities' health, well-being, and social connectedness. Please join the City of Eugene, its Public Works Department, Eugene Police Department, Eugene Emergency Management, and Eugene/Springfield Fire and EMS in supporting Eugene's preparedness and response capability during a catastrophic event through funding the proposed FEMA applications.

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