



SKATS

SALEM-KEIZER AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY

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May 25, 2021

The Honorable Peter Paul Montgomery Buttigieg
Secretary
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

The Salem-Keizer Area Transportation Study (SKATS) is the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Salem-Keizer urban area. The SKATS Policy Committee fully supports the city of Salem's application for RAISE 2021 funding for the McGilchrist Complete Street project.

This important project would markedly improve Salem's McGilchrist Street, an adopted Critical Urban Freight Corridor in Oregon, serving the 468-acre McGilchrist Opportunity Area next to the Salem Municipal Airport and in close proximity to its workforce (it is located in the south-central area of the city). Should this project be funded, McGilchrist Street would be expanded to handle growing intercity, intra-city, and freight traffic; to more effectively manage and treat storm water; to substantially improve safety for all roadway users; and to offer bicycle and pedestrian connections from nearby residential areas to employment centers and essential services located in the McGilchrist area – services such as the federal Social Security Administration office and Veteran's Affairs Clinic that are located on McGilchrist Street.

An investment in the McGilchrist Complete Street project will also help stimulate economic development in the McGilchrist Opportunity Area, as well as in Salem and the greater Mid-Willamette Valley. Given its close proximity to Oregon Highway 22 and Interstate 5, the completion of this project to a modern complete street roadway will help make McGilchrist Street a more attractive location for needed industrial and commercial development with the associated creation of jobs and other economic opportunities for the Salem area.

The Policy Committee has demonstrated support for the McGilchrist Complete Street project through our last two funding cycles by awarding more than \$4.5 million of the

MPO's federal transportation funds for right-of-way purchases and an additional \$4 million to support an initial phase of construction. We hope the U.S. Department of Transportation will share our support when considering this project for a RAISE grant.

Thank you for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cathy Clark".

Cathy Clark
SKATS Policy Committee Chair

cc:lm

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