

PETER A. DeFAZIO
4TH DISTRICT, OREGON

TRANSPORTATION AND
INFRASTRUCTURE
CHAIRMAN



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

July 15, 2019

PLEASE RESPOND TO:

- 2134 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-3704
(202) 225-6416
- 405 EAST 8TH AVENUE, #2030
EUGENE, OR 97401
(541) 465-6732
1-800-944-9603
- 125 CENTRAL AVENUE, #350
COOS BAY, OR 97420
(541) 269-2609
- 612 SE JACKSON STREET, #9
ROSEBURG, OR 97470
(541) 440-3523
- defazio.house.gov

Elaine Chao, Secretary
Secretary of Transportation
US Department of Transportation
Office of Infrastructure Finance and Innovation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

Please note my support for the application submitted by the City of Cottage Grove for a Better Utilization of Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) grant.

The city will use these federal funds for the Main Street Revitalization Project, a plan to maintain the vitality and character of the Downtown Cottage Grove Historic District. The project redesign will focus on streetscape improvements in the downtown core and surrounding streets to improve safety, accessibility, and multi-modal opportunities. The city intends to enhance safety for pedestrians and bicyclists and to install and repair water, electric, stormwater, sewer, and fiber infrastructure within the project area.

The Cottage Grove Historic District is the hub of the civic, commercial, and cultural life of the community. The Main Street Revitalization project will ensure the city continues to attract investments critical to economic growth and community strength.

Please give the City of Cottage Grove application full and fair consideration.

Sincerely,

PETER DeFAZIO
Member of Congress

PAD:PJW

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

July 12, 2019

Honorable Elaine Chao
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

RE: City of Cottage Grove, Oregon BUILD grant; Main Street Revitalization project

Dear Secretary Chao:

We write to express our support of the City of Cottage Grove's application for funding to complete its Main Street Revitalization project utilizing the Department of Transportation's Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) program.

The City of Cottage Grove's application meets the intended purpose of the BUILD program to address unmet transportation infrastructure needs of rural areas. Cottage Grove has devised an innovative plan to restore the economic vitality and improve the accessibility, multi-modal functionality and safety of the Cottage Grove Downtown Commercial Historic District and its surrounding area.

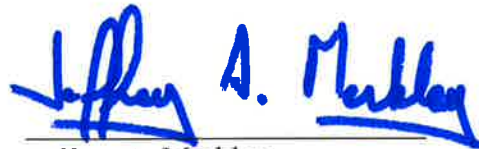
The goals of this project are consistent with the intent of the BUILD program to fund high-impact transportation investments that increase access to safe and affordable transportation; facilitate economic growth and competitiveness; and promote regional connectivity. An investment in the City of Cottage Grove's project is an investment in rural Oregon's future. We are confident that this project will have great impact on the efficiency of Oregon's surface transportation system, its economy, and the lives of citizens for years to come.

Thank you for your full and fair consideration of the City of Cottage Grove's Main Street Revitalization project. If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Juine Chada in Senator Wyden's Eugene office at 541-431-0229 or Courtney Flathers in Senator Merkley's Eugene office at 541-465-6750.

Sincerely,



Ron Wyden
United States Senator



Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator



June 25, 2019

Office of Infrastructure Finance and Innovation
Office of the Secretary of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

RE: Support for the City of Cottage Grove Main Street Refinement Plan
2018 BUILD Grant Application

To the Honorable Secretary Elaine Chao:

I am writing to you today as Mayor of the City of Cottage Grove, Oregon asking for you to give your diligent consideration to our City's request to be a 2019 BUILD Grant recipient. This grant, if awarded, is a unique opportunity to improve the transportation network within rural Lane County while elevating the historic downtown core of Cottage Grove, making it accessible to the entire community and ensuring economic vitality for decades to come.

As Mayor, I am very proud of our City and I believe the implementation of our Main Street Refinement Plan is our best opportunity to keep pace with the changing local, state and international economies. We have a lot to offer here but struggle to compete with urbanized areas. Make no mistake, we love our small rural city and its charms, but we also understand that to ensure our future, we must be competitive.

The City of Cottage Grove Main Street Revitalization Project will usher in a new era for our City. Our plan includes: dramatic improvements to pedestrian safety and mobility within our historic downtown; restored road surfaces and expanded access to infrastructure; cutting edge environmental practices; multi-use community space within a festival plaza; broadband connectivity; undergrounded utilities; shared multi-modal roadways; and full compliance with Americans with Disability Act standards.

I want to thank you, in advance, on behalf of the City of Cottage Grove, both present and future, for considering our 2019 BUILD Grant application. We consider it our honor to ask for your support in the approval of our application.

Sincerely,

Mayor Jeff Gowing
City of Cottage Grove, OR



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

Parks and Recreation Department

State Historic Preservation Office

725 Summer St NE Ste C

Salem, OR 97301-1266

Phone (503) 986-0690

Fax (503) 986-0793

www.oregonheritage.org



Office of Infrastructure Finance and Innovation
Office of the Secretary of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

June 28, 2019

RE: Cottage Grove Main Street Revitalization Project
BUILD Transportation Discretionary Grant application

To Whom It May Concern:

I am Kuri Gill, the grants and outreach coordinator at Oregon Heritage, Oregon Parks and Recreation Department. Our office includes the Oregon Main Street Network and the State Historic Preservation Office. The City of Cottage Grove participates in many of our programs and is an Oregon Heritage All-Star Community. I am writing to support funding of the Cottage Grove Main Street Revitalization Project.

Cottage Grove has made a concerted effort to enhance the downtown in order to create a bustling hub of business and entertainment. They have participated in the national Main Street America program through Oregon's Main Street Network to support businesses, draw people to downtown, and improve the look of downtown.

The downtown is also a historic district listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Its significance includes the story of Cottage Grove's development, the proximity to the river, the view through Main Street and the historic buildings. The city and property owners have improved and restored many buildings over the past 10 years. The city offers local façade grants and has leveraged state program. The historic armory building is a community asset like none other, the city has committed to its preservation and its use as a community gathering place in the heart of downtown. The street improvements would increase the local capacity to continue this work.

All of this activity and the events drawing people to the downtown have made clear the need for the street, sidewalk, and accessories improvements. Accessibility is a key challenge, the street arc and deep curbs make walking and getting out of parked cars a burden. Creating more functional outdoor event space will increase opportunities to bring crowds downtown to support business. The street enhancements will improve daily use for business, trucks, autos, and pedestrians.

The city committed to community engagement in the design process, they held several stakeholder meetings and two public meetings. Stakeholder meetings included around 20 people and one public meeting I attend had over 50 people. This level of participation conveys the community commitment to



downtown. The design incorporated environmental and aesthetic concerns, and retains the historic character of downtown. Implementation of such a plan will be a great model for other communities in the state, for the process and the resulting development.

I hope that the need, the level of preparation and especially the community engagement of this project will make the case to fund this project. I am convinced that the funds will be put to good use for a community that values its downtown.

Thank you for your consideration,



Kuri Gill

Oregon Heritage

Kuri.gill@oregon.gov

503-986-0685



Lane County Public Works Department

Engineering & Construction Services Division

June 13, 2019

Office of Infrastructure Finance and Innovation
Office of the Secretary of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

RE: Cottage Grove Main Street Revitalization Project
BUILD Transportation Discretionary Grant application

To Whom It May Concern:

Lane County supports and will be an active partner in Cottage Grove's BUILD application to complete the Main Street Revitalization Project. Cottage Grove is a rural city within Lane County and its Main Street is a critical connection to Lane County's rural roadway known as Cottage Grove Lorane Highway. As its name implies, this highway connects Cottage Grove to the unincorporated community of Lorane.

The town of Lorane is home to local winery industries, such as King Estates and Iris Hill, and the rural school district, Crow-Applegate-Lorane. Cottage Grove is the nearest community for Lorane residents to access goods and services. The Cottage Grove Lorane Highway is the means of transportation between the two communities. This highway transitions into Main Street within Cottage Grove.

Instead of a highway that divides a rural city, Cottage Grove envisions the transformation of its Main Street to support all modes of travel and economic development, while preserving its historical character. The vision is documented in the Main Street Refinement Plan that was developed by the community and adopted by the Cottage Grove City Council in 2015. Funding is needed to implement the plan's recommended infrastructure improvements.

BUILD funding would be ideal for this project, as it supports rural communities that have limited resources and are dependent upon roads to meet daily needs.

Sincerely,

Sasha Vartanian
Transportation Planning Supervisor

Engineering Administration

1450 Birch Avenue
Cottage Grove, OR 97424

541-942-0456 Tel
541-942-9691 Fax
www.southlanetransit.com



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Ruth Linoz

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Office of Infrastructure Finance and Innovation
Office of the Secretary of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

RE: Cottage Grove Main Street Revitalization Project
BUILD Transportation Discretionary Grant application

Since 1983, South Lane Wheels has provided public transportation to communities in South Lane County from its base in Cottage Grove. We are writing in support of Main Street Revitalization Project with funds from the BUILD grant because the heart of our community is this section of Main Street in the Historic District and adjacent streets.

South Lane Wheels buses, delivery trucks, business customers, tourists and folks traveling from east to west in our community need a safe, accessible, multimodal roadway with all the improvements in order to truly enjoy our Historic District. We are confident that the revitalization project will improve and install amenities that will encourage economic development and improve quality of life for people of all ages.

We enthusiastically support the Main Street Revitalization Project because we view it as a necessary and fantastic opportunity for Cottage Grove to partner with other businesses and community improvement projects to maximize the funds awarded and to offer better quality of life, especially for those who need accessible access to businesses and a safe route to their destination.

Thank you for your consideration of the City of Cottage Grove's grant application.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ruth E. Linoz".

Ruth E. Linoz

Executive Director on behalf of the Board of Directors

Wheels of life, wherever life takes you!





July 8, 2019

Office of Infrastructure Finance and Innovation
Office of the Secretary of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

RE: Cottage Grove Main Street Revitalization Project -
BUILD Transportation Discretionary Grant application

Dear Review Team,

The Coast Fork Willamette Watershed Council (CFWWC) would like to express our sincere support for the Cottage Grove Main Street Revitalization Project being submitted by the City of Cottage Grove (City). CFWWC offices are located in the heart of downtown Cottage Grove. From a business standpoint this grant will help us better operate and improve the visibility and attractiveness of our operations. From our mission standpoint this grant request will allow the City to incorporate the use of green approaches in design and construction to improve the long-term environmental performance of the street and the uses along it.

This application is both timely and relevant to work being completed in the Coast Fork Watershed. Improving stormwater runoff is essential for water quality. As one of the two headwaters of the Willamette River the effects of our efforts will be felt basin wide. Protecting and enhancing water quality is a key factor for CFWWC in prioritizing future projects. Increased water quality through the reduction of sediment and contaminant sheet-flow through low impact development techniques and increased vegetation in the City will have both ecological and economic advantages. Incorporating efforts outlined in this application will help CFWWC to increase impact on a more regional scale and will build upon current joint projects between the City and CFWWC restoring habitat along the river.

The City of Cottage Grove has a long and celebrated track record for completing a variety of projects. I have full confidence in their ability to make this project a great success, and look forward to fully participating when the project is funded. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or would like to speak further.

Sincerely,

Amanda Gilbert
Executive Director



July 1st, 2019

Office of Infrastructure Finance and Innovation
Office of the Secretary of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

RE: Cottage Grove Main Street Revitalization Project
BUILD Transportation Discretionary Grant Application

Dear Grant Committee,

The Cottage Grove Chamber of Commerce wholeheartedly supports the City's application for a BUILD Grant to be put toward the Main Street Revitalization Project.

The city of Cottage Grove, Oregon is an incredible community full of picturesque covered bridges, beautiful cycling routes, hiking trails, and a great Historic District.

I serve as the Executive Director for the Cottage Grove Chamber of Commerce and I continue to be amazed by our fantastic Historic District and its appeal to both locals and visitors. The businesses along Main Street are vital to our little town but sadly, the area's current conditions do not allow everyone to experience them to the fullest.

Our Historic District's infrastructure is not current with today's ADA standards, meaning many members of the community are either unable to—or find it incredibly difficult to—enjoy everything that our historic Main Street has to offer. Our sidewalks are disintegrating, the crown of the street is so bad that cars have difficulty opening their doors when parked, and access to utilities is severely limited. We have an approved plan to make the necessary improvements but we don't yet have the financial means to implement the Main Street Revitalization Project.

If awarded, the Build Grant would have a tremendous, permanent impact on the vitality of Cottage Grove. It would allow us to make many of the much needed improvements to our transportation infrastructure; including cars, trucks, cyclists, pedestrians and people with disabilities. Every business will benefit from these improvements as well as our citizens and the many visitors who come to Cottage Grove each day.

On behalf of the Cottage Grove Chamber of Commerce, I hope you will partner with us as we are partnering with other organizations around the community to restore and revitalize our Main Street Historic District.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Travis Palmer", written over a horizontal line.

Travis Palmer – Executive Director

Cottage Grove Area Chamber of Commerce

700 E. Gibbs, Suite C • Cottage Grove, Oregon 97424 • (541) 942-2411 • Fax (541) 942-6041

June 12, 2019

Office of Infrastructure Finance and Innovation
Office of the Secretary of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

RE: Cottage Grove Main Street Revitalization Project
BUILD Transportation Grant Application

Dear BUILD Grant Authority:

As a resident of Cottage Grove and long-time advocate for bicycle access and bicycle safety, I would like to offer my wholehearted support on behalf of the Coalition for Bicycle Safety for the City's 2019 BUILD Transportation Grant application.

I served on the Community Advisory Committee for the Cottage Grove Transportation System Plan Update in 2014-15. This experience helped me to better understand the overall needs of the transportation system within Cottage Grove. I have also participated in education, awareness and planning for the Safe Routes to School project at Lincoln Middle School.

I believe in creating safe access for bicycling within my community. There are some significant safety issues that need to be remedied where bicyclists and motorists must navigate within the same space. The City's Main Street Revitalization Project will dramatically improve road conditions and access for road sharing between bicycle and vehicular traffic on Main Street and in the alleys within the downtown area. If bicycle riders are provided safe access to roads leading to businesses, community buildings and gathering places, I believe the community will benefit and more importantly, the environment will benefit.

I am involved in a project funding and locating long-term bike lockers along Main Street. The goal of this project is to help bicyclists secure their bicycles while visiting shops and restaurants in the downtown business area. The City of Cottage Grove has been very helpful with this effort, both in terms of staff time and providing locations for the bicycle lockers on City property. As with most major projects I have participated in to generate awareness and increase safety, I know that having support and reliable partners is crucial to success. I know that the City of Cottage Grove is that reliable partner that will steward a successful infrastructure upgrade to the downtown area.

I strongly support the City of Cottage Grove's request for funding of its Main Street Revitalization Plan. I have been and will continue to be an active participant in the public awareness campaign for this project and support the City's efforts in improving multi-modal transportation in the downtown area.

Sincerely,



Don Strahan
Coalition for Bicycle Safety

June 12, 2019

Office of Infrastructure Finance and Innovation

Office of the Secretary of Transportation

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE

Washington, DC 20590

SUBJECT: Cottage Grove Main Street Revitalization Project

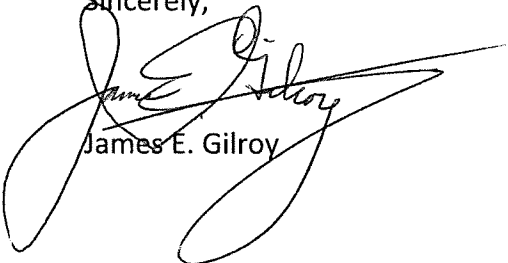
BUILD Transportation Discretionary Grant Application

Although my family and I have lived in this community for forty-five years and I've served as an elected official, with four terms as Mayor, I'm writing this letter of support for our community from a job enhancement perspective. This is our best shot at creating the preferred future we've talked about for a generation and we'd appreciate your financial backing to insure we can make it happen.

Currently I serve as chair of the Economic Business Improvement District and board member of both Community Development Corporation and Main Street programs. Our prime strategy for business vitality is to resurrect the beating heart of our community. We believe that it will inspire more participation from the private sector, thereby multiplying our opportunity for jobs throughout the area. In 1986, Cottage Grove commissioned a market study that indicated that this historic district didn't have to do a major overhaul in order to achieve its potential...."just need to clean it up and make it more visitor-friendly". If you can believe Hollywood movie producers who have filmed here a number of times, our downtown is the perfect set for an All-American City for which we've been selected twice.

Won't you join us? It'll be a terrific partnership.

Sincerely,



James E. Gilroy

Cathy Bellavita
78529 Halderman Rd.
Cottage Grove, OR 97424 541-942-9428

June 21, 2019

Office of Infrastructure Finance and Innovation
Office of the Secretary of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

RE: 2019 BUILD Grant Application – Main Street Revitalization Project; City of Cottage Grove, Oregon

Dear Honorable Secretary Chao,

I am writing in support of the City of Cottage Grove's application for a 2019 BUILD grant. I have closely followed the multi-year development of our city's Main Street Revitalization Project and as Chair of the Cottage Grove Historic Landmarks Commission I am truly proud of the City's inclusion of the public every step of the way in the project's development.

Cottage Grove's Main Street has been the center of our city's commercial and social life since its founding over 125 years ago. In 1992 Main Street was listed on the National Register of Historic Places and since then our focus has been on creating a thriving commercial hub while still maintaining the district's historic character.

The Main Street Revitalization Project we are seeking funding for strikes a balance between preserving our historic resources and improving infrastructure and streetscapes that support commercial enterprises that attract residents, visitors and business to our downtown corridor. Supporting historic buildings that house businesses that are attractive to today's entrepreneurs are the focus of our Main Street Revitalization Project. Funding from the BUILD grant will ensure we can achieve that goal.

Beyond the goals of encouraging and attracting commercial enterprises, the BUILD grant will ensure we are able to complete the Main Street Revitalization Project's perhaps less glamorous goals of upgrading the antiquated sewer and water systems under Main Street, as well as improving the street's most basic safety features by removing the dangerous rise that has developed along the center divide as a result of years of repaving. Car doors routinely open directly onto the curb because of the steep angle that has developed over the years. This may sound trivial, but damaged car doors and Main Street's severely uneven sidewalks, are the most common complaints from residents, visitors and business owners parking and walking along Main Street.

Secretary Chao, funding from the 2019 BUILD grant would play a pivotal role in ensuring the City of Cottage Grove is able to implement the Main Street Revitalization Project that our community came together to create. BUILD grant funding would ensure our community will see our efforts become a reality.

Sincerely,



Cathy Bellavita
Cottage Grove Historic Landmarks Commission

July 8, 2019

To Whom It May Concern:

Cottage Grove has tremendous potential; and it has the passion to improve its historical downtown. And, we could use your help.

Here are three reasons why I'm writing this Letter of Support for the grant request.

1. **We're Working Hard to Improve Economic Health.** I'm investing \$1,500,000 in our Historic Downtown through the purchase and renovation of the "biggest, ugliest building" in the central core. Upon completion, this project will bring at least 30 jobs into the downtown. Upon completion, I plan to start construction on another major project in the downtown that will invest an additional \$5,000,000. Others business owners are also improving their buildings. Clearly, we believe in the potential of Cottage Grove. And, with your grant help, we can and will improve the economic health of our small, rural community.

2. **Safety and Accessibility is a Significant Need.** Not long ago on Main Street near my building, an elderly lady got out of the car's passenger side, tripped, and fell face down on the cement. Bleeding. Why? Because the City's sidewalks are unsafe. They're broken and uneven on nearly every block. Hazardous tree stumps are present in multiple locations.

Here's another example. When my wife and I have lunch at a downtown restaurant, she's unable to get out of the passenger door because the Main Street curbs are often too high for a car door to open. That's a big negative for accessibility.

Both of these examples illustrate the need to improve safety and accessibility. Your grant could help accomplish these.

3. **Quality of Life.** I'm a real estate developer and broker. In order to have a good quality of life for our community, we need private-sector, attractive amenities in our downtown. These will enrich the lives of our citizens. But we need public-sector improvements and repairs to our City's infrastructure. When completed, they both will make a huge difference.

Please help us help ourselves to improve our community by approving our grant request.

Sincerely,



Len Blackstone
CEO, Blackstone Inc.
Real Estate Developer and General Contractor
Board Member, Cottage Grove Community Development Corporation

2051 Bennett Creek Rd, Cottage Grove, OR 97424
(541) 972-3870; Len@BlackstoneInc.net

Office of the Secretary
of Transportation.
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E
Washington DC 20590

Alan Jackson
32442 Taylor Butte Rd
Cottage Grove
OR 97424
July 1 2019

Dear Sirs,

Re: Cottage Grove Discretionary Grant Application

N.B. This note addresses the broader impact of infrastructure improvements over and above the obvious solution to practical needs emphasized in the application

I strongly support the City's application for a BUILD grant to support Main Street revitalization for two reasons:

1. The Main Street re-vitalization project can hasten the evolving transformation of the City into the core of an important regional culture based on the development of natural human and environmental resources.

2. It enhances of its importance as a transportation hub for a widespread rural community and beyond that will benefit from new employment and quality of life opportunities.

Transformation into Regional Culture Center

Dependency on a local culture that no longer exists and an environment that is yet to be adequately exploited makes change both essential and possible. Considerable potential exists because recent population growth has brought new skills and opportunity. Fortunately, local government knows how to respond.

Important social and economic improvement has been achieved by public and private partnerships based in part on the strong support of families central to previous activity including both large employers and workers.

The term “Revitalization” is misleading because the purpose is to facilitate new opportunity rather than update history. The proposed enhancements respond to local needs but have broader significance because they help the City become a regional center of character.

The resources for this reformation already exist in a broad range of interlocking practical and intellectual strengths. These include existing institutions like a large hospital, a well used library, an exemplary school system, airport, and commercial activity including a nationally recognized wine industry and a comprehensive range of professional offices, many well maintained sport facilities and fast growing entertainment venues. Vigorous organizations like Rotary have members who are community leaders with the understanding and experience to facilitate new activity based on infrastructure improvements.

The potential importance of Main Street as a cultural center cannot be over emphasized. Cottage Grove has recognized historic importance centered on Main Street and its immediate environment and has structures and interconnections conducive to a range of activity essential to a new identity.

Of special importance is the remarkable collaboration between local philanthropists and government notably in the conversion of a one time railway yard into beautiful park and auditorium that is only a few hundred yards from Main Street. (The City Manager has already been able to arrange visits from the Eugene Symphony and there is already a range of other lively entertainments in the park. Another remarkable achievement has been the conversion of a large military

armory into a multi purpose community center capable serving social needs and providing a quality environment for cultural activities.

Of significant economic importance is how an improved cultural environment will attract investment in new business with an attendant increase in employment, property values and tax income.

Most importantly, in connection with the City's application, the cultural potential can only be fully realized by essential improvements to the infrastructure of the inner city.

Enhancing Cottage Grove as a Transportation Hub

Cottage Grove is already a transportation hub for a widespread rural community and, importantly, it is connected with Interstate I-5 that generates a significant flow of visitor traffic into Main Street and its hinterland.

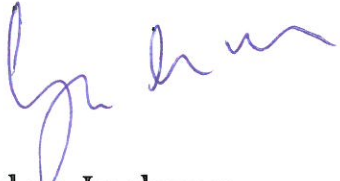
Equally important is the inward and outward regional traffic of Cottage Grove. Proximity to Eugene has made Cottage Grove an important commuter town that also encourages travel from Eugene. This reverse flow is important to the local economy. And it is key to bringing in new employers because it taps a reserve of

needed talent attracted by a fast improving local quality of life and lower property costs.

The potential benefits could not be fully realized if the internal infrastructure is not improved. This not only includes seamless internal traffic flows but access to and egress from the surrounding region.

City government has proved its capability to manage far reaching improvements but adequate funding is now essential.

Yours truly,



Alan Jackson

541 942 9510
shalimar@efn.org