

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