



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

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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

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