



July 10, 2008

Western Regional Office
Rails-To-Trails Conservancy
26 O'Farrell Street, Suite 400
San Francisco, CA 94108

Dear Rails-To-Trails:

The Metropolitan Policy Committee, representing the Central Lane Metropolitan Planning Organization, endorses the attached Case Statement for participation in the 2010 Campaign for Active Transportation. The Case Statement covers the Eugene-Springfield, Oregon metropolitan area. We believe that our community could effectively leverage a \$50 million federal investment in bicycling and pedestrian transportation to make significant improvements in regional mobility. By shifting more automobile trips to biking and walking we can also provide cost effective congestion mitigation.

To communicate our interest and enthusiasm for the 2010 Campaign for Active Transportation, we have prepared the attached Case Statement emphasizing the following:

- Solid political and community support for bicycle and pedestrian transportation;
- Identified need for transportation system improvements;
- Existing community assets indicating long-term investments in pedestrian and bicycling modes; and
- Proposed improvement projects ready for development.

A strategic component of the Central Lane MPO approach will be the development of state-of-the-art tools for analysis and decision-making, including a multi-modal transportation model, a regional bike/pedestrian data base, and expanded regional mapping. These tools will help our agencies to build key multi-use connections to augment the existing active transportation system and to improve the success of programs that enhance mobility, reduce congestion and efficiently utilize our limited public resources.

The Eugene-Springfield community boasts an award-winning and nationally renowned active transportation system of public facilities and community programs. Strong relationships have been built between jurisdictional partners on issues related to active transportation and we enjoy a successful history of leveraging resources, establishing best practices, and forging creative partnerships. The Metropolitan Policy Committee strongly supports the 2010 Campaign for Active Transportation. We appreciate your consideration of our Case Statement as we continue to build our partnership base and communicate with our congressional delegates.

Sincerely,

Mayor Sid Leiken, Chair
Metropolitan Policy Committee