

**OFFICE OF CONGRESSMAN EARL BLUMENAUER
SURFACE TRANSPORTATION AUTHORIZATION
HIGH PRIORITY PROJECT REQUEST FORM**

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION: FRIDAY, APRIL 24, 2009

This form must be filled out in its entirety. It must be accompanied by at least one letter of support from a state, regional, or local governmental official specifically supporting the project request. This letter should discuss the merits of the project; specify the process to provide the public with an opportunity to comment on the project; and identify the other sources of Federal, state, or private funding that will be used to complete this project or project phase. This letter must contain an explicit statement of support for the project. In addition, if you are requesting less than 80 percent of the total estimated cost of the specific segment or activity, the letter must identify other specifically designated Federal, state, local, or private funding sources that, combined with this request, equal at least 80 percent of the total estimated cost. Please use boldface font to highlight these statements in the letter.

The deadline to submit this form and the support letter is Friday, April 24, 2009. No exceptions. Please submit this form along with any supplementary materials to David Skillman via email at dskillman@oregon.gov. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Dav

Form instructions: This form contains drop-down menus to answer some questions. To access the drop-down menu, run your cursor over "Select One" or "Select One if Applicable" and click your mouse. A drop-down menu will appear and you can select the appropriate answer. Additionally, written answers should be typed in the gray boxes provided.

1. Project Title:

Rockwood Town Center

2. Organization (project sponsor) Name and Address: (if state or local entity, please identify specific department requesting funding)

City of Gresham, Department of Environmental Services, 1333 NW Eastman Parkway, Gresham, Oregon, 97030

3. Primary contact name, phone number, mobile phone number, fax number, and e-mail:

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er. Tel: 503-611
ham.or.us

4. Project location address (if different from organization):

This project is in the Rockwood Town Center, between Glisan and Yamhill Streets to the north and south, and 181st to 192nd Avenues to the west and east.

5. What is the purpose of the project? Why is it a valuable use of taxpayer funds? How will the project support efforts to improve the economy and create jobs in Oregon?

The purpose of this project is to support redevelopment and revitalization of the Rockwood Town Center, a Regional Center that has experienced a high level of disinvestment and decline. In 2003 City of Gresham voters established the Rockwood Urban Renewal Area to help revitalize the community. This project supports those revitalization efforts by transforming two parcels of

publicly owned land in the Rockwood Town Center into higher and better, transit-oriented, uses. Additionally, the project includes streetscape improvements along Burnside Boulevard to better integrate pedestrian, bicycle, and transit modes.

One of the two publicly-owned parcels to be redeveloped is a former grocery store site and was purchased by the City of Gresham in 2005. The grocery store was demolished and the site was readied for mixed-use redevelopment. The other parcel is a surface park-and-ride lot that lies between two light rail stations. The City requests federal funds to develop a parking structure on the former grocery store site, which is adjacent to a light rail station. The structure would accommodate parking from the existing surface park-and-ride lot and allow that space to redevelop to a better and higher use. The former grocery store site is large enough to accommodate residential and retail uses in addition to the multi-level park-and-ride structure. *Furthermore, the parking structure would serve as a shared parking facility for the residential and retail uses.*

The two publicly owned parcels are on Burnside Boulevard. This project includes enhancements along the portion of Burnside where those parcels exist. The enhancements support pedestrian and bicycle access to the park-and-ride structure via new crosswalk markings and ADA ramps at intersections. Visual and physical separation of pedestrian, bicycle, and automobile modes will be accomplished through urban design, with new landscaping and lighting features.

This project is a valuable use of taxpayer funds because it leverages the use of existing infrastructure with redevelopment opportunities. The underutilized public land in this project scope is in a densely populated area well served by light rail. A park-and-ride structure and streetscape improvements in this area will help the City attract a higher volume of mixed-use development that serves the existing population while attracting more residents and more employment opportunities. Long-term economic viability of this area is dependant on these factors; state, regional, or local funding for this project is unlikely in the near-term and federal transportation funds for this project will jump-start the transformation of existing parcels into new and better uses.

It is estimated that this project will support 320 jobs, 109 of which are construction.

6. Are you requesting Federal funds for more than one project in this bill? Yes
If Yes, this project is priority 1 of 3 total requests for your organization.
(For example, priority 1 of 3 requests or priority 3 of 3 requests.)

7. Are you requesting funds from other Members of Congress? No
If Yes, which Members?

8. Please select which type of eligible project under Title 23 (Highways) or Chapter 53 of Title 49 (Public Transit) of the U.S. Code for which you are requesting funding. (Note: The Committee will not accept requests for non-surface transportation projects, such as transportation museums, horse trails, or historic battlefields, as part of the High Priority Projects program.)
Highway Project (Title 23)

Type: Not a Highway Project

Located on a Federal-aid highway? Yes

Located on the National Highway System? Yes

Located on the Interstate System? No

Public Transit Project (Chapter 53 of Title 49)

Indicate Type with an 'X':

Passenger Vehicles

Transit Bus or Van

Transit Rail Car or Locomotive, including Streetcars

Transit Ferry

Transit Facilities

Vehicle Maintenance or Administration Facility

Passenger Facility, including Intermodal Facilities, stations, and terminals

Transit Rights-of-Way

Property Acquisition

Corridor Development

Rail Track Construction or Maintenance

Bus-only Lane Construction or Maintenance

Transit Equipment

Vehicle-related Equipment System-related Equipment

New Start Project (A New Start project is a major new fixed guideway capital project seeking more than \$75 million in Federal funds.)

Small Start Project (A Small Start project is a new fixed guideway capital project seeking less than \$75 million in Federal funds and with a total estimated net capital cost of less than \$250 million.)

Rail

Intercity Passenger Rail (Not commuter rail. Commuter rail should be requested under public transit)

Is the project located within a corridor previously designated by the Secretary of Transportation pursuant to section 104(d)(2) of Title 23, United States Code, or the Northeast Corridor? Select One

If Yes, which Corridor: Select One

Freight Rail

Select Rail Class

Research

University Transportation Center

Other

9. Did the Federal Highway Administration, Federal Transit Administration, State Department of Transportation, or public transit agency confirm that the project is eligible under Title 23 (Highways) or Chapter 53 of Title 49 (Public Transit) of the United States Code? Yes

If Yes, which entity confirmed the project eligibility?

FHWA, FTA, State DOT, or Public Transit Agency:

Oregon Department of Transportation
Contact information (Name, Position, Phone):
John Baker, Transportation Economist, (5 5
According to the entity, is the project eligible under Title 23, Title 47, or both:
Title 23

10. Please identify the state, regional, or local governmental entity that is an eligible recipient of the funds. Please include an address. (For example, a State Department of Transportation, public transit agency, Metropolitan Planning Organization, local government, or Federally-recognized tribe.) Note: If a project is a multi-state project, please identify the state, regional, or local governmental entity which will serve as the lead agency for the project.

City of Gresham, Oregon. Department of Environmental Services. 1333 NW Eastman Parkway, Gresham, Oregon, 97030.

11. Please identify and describe the specific segment or activity for which project funding is requested. (The request must finance at least 80 percent of the total estimated cost of the specific segment or activity by either (1) the amount requested; or (2) the amount requested in addition to other specifically designated Federal, state, local, or private funding sources.)

Project Description: (Include the specific terminus points of the project or activity, as appropriate.)

The City of Gresham is seeking authorization to use federal transportation funds to plan, design, and construct a parking structure to serve light rail, bicycle facilities, and streetscape improvements in the Rockwood Town Center. The Town Center lies within an Urban Renewal Area and runs between Glisan and Yamhill Streets to the north and south, and 181st to 192nd Avenues on the west and east. The City purchased and demolished a former grocery store site within the project scope which lies at the intersection of Burnside and 188th Avenues. This catalyst site is adjacent to a Max light rail station and is where a park-and-ride structure would be developed. Bicycle facilities and streetscape improvements would be developed along Burnside Avenue.

Project Activities: (May select more than one.)

- | | | | |
|---|--|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> construct | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> plan | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> design | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> engineer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> conduct | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> environmental review | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> acquire right-of-way | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> conduct alternatives analysis | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> research | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> develop | <input type="checkbox"/> demonstrate | <input type="checkbox"/> deploy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> reconstruct | <input type="checkbox"/> rehabilitate | <input type="checkbox"/> replace | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> retrofit |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> install | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> mitigate | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> implement | <input type="checkbox"/> realign |

What is the total estimated cost?

\$11,500,000

What amount is being requested? \$10,000,000

What percentage of the total estimated cost is the request for Federal funding? 86%

If the percentage is less than 80% identify other specifically designated Federal, state, local, or private funding that when combined with this request equal at least 80 percent.

Source:

Amount of Funding:

12. If you are requesting funding for a specific segment or activity, please describe the overall project of which this segment/activity is a part.

Project Description: (Please limit your response to 3-4 sentences; up to 500 characters.)

Total Project Estimated cost:

13. Is the project included in the State's Long-Range Transportation Plan? No

If Yes, please provide the date of approval of the most recent version of the plan and the title of the plan.

Date of approval (MM/YYYY):

Title of the plan: NOTE: the Oregon Transportation Plan is a policy document and is not project specific. Therefore, this project is not listed in the State's Long-Range Transportation Plan.

14. Is the project included in the Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and/or the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP)? No

If Yes, please provide the date of approval of the most recent version of the program(s), and the title of the program(s).

Listed in TIP: Select One

Date of approval (MM/YYYY):

Title of the Program:

Listed in STIP: Select One

Date of approval (MM/YYYY):

Title of the Program:

15. If the project is an intercity passenger rail project is it included in the State Rail Plan?

Not Applicable

If Yes, please provide the date on which the Governor approved the most recent version of the plan and the title of the plan.

Date of approval (MM/YYYY):

Title of the plan:

16. Please describe the current status of the project and the expected schedule for its completion.

Federal-aid Highway projects:

Select One if Applicable

Public Transit projects:

Select One if Applicable

Rail projects:

Select One if Applicable

Research:

Select One if Applicable

17. What is the expected date of completion of the project for which you are requesting funding (Between FY2010-FY2020)? FY2015

18. Does the project have regional or national significance? (A project of regional and/or national significance is typically a high-cost transportation infrastructure facility that often includes multiple levels of government, agencies, modes of transportation, and transportation goals and planning processes that are not easily addressed or funded within existing surface transportation program categories. These projects have national and/or regional benefits,

including improving economic productivity by facilitating international trade, relieving congestion, and improving transportation safety by facilitating passenger and freight movement.)

Does the project have regional or national significance? Yes

If Yes, Please describe the regional or national significance of the project. Please limit your response to 3-4 sentences (up to 500 characters):

This project is regionally significant, as it is a Town Center as identified in the Metro Region 2040 Growth Concept. It will require coordination with regional land use, transit, and environmental agencies. Benefits include parking, bicycle, and streetscape improvements to be used as leverage to redevelop an economically distressed area. Improvements will create a strong Town Center that will benefit the entire Metro region.

19. Describe the safety, economic development, mobility, and environmental benefits associated with completion of the project.

Safety Benefits: (Please limit your response to 2-3 sentences; (500 characters).)

This project will increase safety in the Rockwood Town Center by improving pedestrian and bicycle access to a light rail station, enhancing streetscapes to encourage more community-based activity within the neighborhood, and providing a park-and-ride structure at a light rail station to reduce vehicle miles traveled and greenhouse gas emissions.

Economic Development Benefits: (Please limit your response to 2-3 sentences; (500 characters).)

The Rockwood Town Center is an economically distressed area in an Urban Renewal District. This project will serve as leverage to attract private sector development to implement new transit-oriented housing, commercial, and office space.

Mobility Benefits: (Please limit your response to 2-3 sentences; (500 characters).)

This project includes new multimodal enhancements to increase mobility, including bicycle facilities and enhanced pedestrian crossings to light rail. These facilities, along with a new parking structure in the Rockwood Town Center, will minimize the amount of time and effort required by system users to reach destinations. Enhanced connections at the light rail station in Rockwood will entice new users to the light rail system, further supporting enhanced mobility on local and regional roads.

Environmental Benefits: (Please limit your response to 2-3 sentences; (500 characters).)

This transit-oriented project will reduce air pollution through reductions in automobile vehicle miles traveled. It will support existing and planned compact, mixed-use development near light rail and thus increase the number of transit, walking, and biking trips.

20. Has the project previously received any Federal funding? No

Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) (P.L.109-59)

Section:

Project Number:

Amount of Funding:

Amount of Funding Amount Obligated:

Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA 21) (P.L. 105-178)

Section:

Project Number:

Amount of Funding:
 Amount of Funding Amount Obligated:
National Highway System Designation Act of 1995 (NHS Act) (P.L. 104-59)
 Section:
 Project Number:
 Amount of Funding:
 Amount of Funding Amount Obligated:
Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 (ISTEA) (P.L. 102-240)
 Section:
 Project Number:
 Amount of Funding:
 Amount of Funding Amount Obligated:

Appropriations act(s)
 Public Law Name:
 Public Law Number:
 Section:
 Project Number:
 Amount of Funding:
 Amount of Funding Amount Obligated:

Other legislation:
 Public Law Name:
 Public Law Number:
 Section:
 Project Number:
 Amount of Funding:
 Amount of Funding Amount Obligated:

21. Has the project received any prior funding from a state, local, or private source? No

Source:
Amount of Funding:
Amount Obligated:

22. Please provide the proposed legislative text (in no more than 250 characters) of the project as you would like it to appear in the bill. Please use action verbs to begin the description (for example, "construct," "plan," "design," "engineer," "research," or "rehabilitate"). Please note that project line items carry the force of law, and can only be amended through subsequent public laws. If Congressional intent (as established through answers listed on this form) is different from the legislative text, the entity administering the project is required to adhere to the statutory language.

Authorize the City of Gresham to plan, design, and construct a new light rail park-and-ride structure, bicycle facilities, and streetscape improvements in the Rockwood Town Center in Gresham, Oregon.

23. Are you enclosing the letter referenced at the top of this form with the required formatting? Yes

24. Notes or anything else we should know about the project request:

**Please return this form and at least one local or state letter of support
no later than Friday, April 24, 2009 (via email) to:**

I.house.gov

**Washington, D.C. Contact for Rep. Blumenauer: David Skillman, (2
Oregon Contact for Rep. Blumenauer: Sarah Masterson, (503)**