



**Eugene City Council**

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Eugene, OR 97401-2793  
541-682-5010 • 541-682-5414 Fax  
www.eugene-or.gov

# **AMENDED AGENDA EUGENE CITY COUNCIL**

**January 24, 2018**

**12:00 p.m. CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION**  
**Harris Hall**  
**125 East 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue**  
**Eugene, Oregon 97401**

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**Meeting of January 24, 2018;  
Her Honor Mayor Lucy Vinis Presiding**

**Councilors**

Mike Clark, President  
Greg Evans  
Emily Semple  
Jennifer Yeh

Betty Taylor, Vice President  
Chris Pryor  
Claire Syrett  
Alan Zelenka

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**12:00 p.m. CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION**  
**Harris Hall, 125 East 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue**

*The Mayor calls the January 24, 2018, City Council work session to order.*

- A. WORK SESSION: Follow-Up to City Council January 10 Motion on Performance Auditor**
- B. WORK SESSION: Intergovernmental Relations and 2018 Legislative Update**

*Adjourn.*

The Eugene City Council welcomes your interest in these agenda items. This meeting location is wheelchair-accessible. For the hearing impaired, an interpreter can be provided with 48 hours' notice prior to the meeting. Spanish-language interpretation will also be provided with 48 hours' notice. To arrange for these services, contact the receptionist at 541-682-5010. City Council meetings are telecast live on Metro Television, Comcast channel 21, and rebroadcast later in the week.

El consejo de la Ciudad de Eugene agradece su interés en estos asuntos de la agenda. El lugar de la reunión tiene acceso para sillas de ruedas. Se puede proveer a un intérprete para las personas con discapacidad auditiva si avisa con 48 horas de anticipación. También se puede proveer interpretación para español si avisa con 48 horas de anticipación. Para reservar estos servicios llame al 541-682-5010. Las reuniones del consejo de la ciudad se transmiten en vivo por Metro Television, Canal 21 de Comcast y son retransmitidas durante la semana.

For more information, contact the Council Coordinator at 541-682-5010,  
or visit us online at [www.eugene-or.gov](http://www.eugene-or.gov).

# EUGENE CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY



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## Work Session: Follow-Up to City Council January 10 Motion on Performance Auditor

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Meeting Date: January 24, 2018  
[www.eugene-or.gov](http://www.eugene-or.gov)

Agenda Item Number: A  
Staff Contact: Glenn Klein

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On January 10, 2018, the Council adopted the following motion:

*I move to direct staff to craft a proposed Charter Amendment for an independent performance auditor based on the objectives and provisions contained in the Citizens for Sensible Oversight January 8 memo presented to Mayor and Council, in sufficient time to allow for referral to the May 2018 special election ballot.*

On January 17, the Council held a work session to review a draft of the possible Charter amendment. During that meeting, councilors offered suggestions for changes to the draft, and asked questions. Follow-up on some of the questions will be provided to Council either prior to or at the January 24<sup>th</sup> work session. Attached to this AIS are clean and red-lined versions of a revised draft in response to the suggestions.

On January 22, the public will have an opportunity to provide comments to the Council during the public forum about this revised draft.

During this work session, the Council can discuss and then provide additional direction to staff on next steps. Should the Council decide that it wants to refer the attached draft – whether with or without changes – to the May ballot, then the Council will need to adopt a motion directing staff to bring back a resolution referring the proposed Charter amendment to the May ballot. That resolution likely would be brought back to Council on February 12.

### OPTIONS

1. Direct the city manager to prepare a resolution referring the draft Charter amendment (Attachment A) to the May ballot.
2. Make changes to Attachment A and then direct the city manager to prepare a resolution referring the revised draft Charter amendment to the May ballot.
3. Schedule an additional work session for January 31 to further discuss the proposed Charter amendment.
4. Take no action.

**SUGGESTED MOTION**

If the Council chooses to refer the draft Charter amendment (with or without changes) to the May ballot, then the following is the suggested motion:

*I move to direct the city manager to bring back a resolution referring the proposed Charter amendment to the May ballot.*

**ATTACHMENTS**

- A. Clean version of revised draft of proposed Charter Amendment
- B. Redline version of revised draft of proposed Charter Amendment

1-18-18 DRAFT

**15-B. Independent Performance Auditor**

(a) It is the policy of the city to maintain a performance and financial audit function to provide the city council, city manager, city staff and the general public with objective, timely and accurate analysis and information. To accomplish this policy, the city council shall appoint an independent performance auditor and citizen performance audit review board as described in this section. The council also shall annually appropriate funding for the office of the independent performance auditor that is sufficient to carry out the functions described in this section, including the hiring of the auditor, support staff and consultants, with a minimum budget of [\$250,000] per year.

(b) The city council shall hire, supervise and specify the salary of the independent performance auditor ("auditor"), with salary and benefits equal to or greater than the average salary and benefits for government auditors in Oregon. The auditor shall possess adequate professional proficiency as demonstrated by a relevant certification such as a Certified Public Accountant, Certified Internal Auditor or Certified Government Auditing Professional; have at least five years of recent auditing, evaluation, analysis or comparable experience; and remain certified during the term of office. The auditor must reside within the city throughout the term of office. The auditor may be removed from office only for cause by a vote of six or more city councilors, and after receiving advice from the citizen performance audit review board created by subsection (d) of this section.

(c) The auditor shall conduct or cause to be conducted performance and financial audits, and may conduct studies intended to measure or improve the performance, of city departments and programs following generally accepted government auditing standards. All completed audits and studies shall be provided to the city council and city manager, and posted on the city's website. Subject to policies and budget appropriations adopted by the city council, the auditor may hire, supervise and remove employees for the auditor's office, prescribe the duties and compensation for those employees, and retain consultants to assist with an audit. The auditor and other staff in the office of the independent performance auditor are independent of the city manager. The auditor shall have timely access to all city employees, information and records required to conduct a performance audit, including confidential and legally privileged information and records so long as the privilege is not waived and no state or federal law or regulation is violated.

(d) The city council shall appoint a citizen performance audit review board ("board") to advise the council and the auditor on matters relating to performance auditing and to oversee the work of the auditor. The board shall consist of seven voting members, none of whom may be city elected officials or staff, with at least one resident from ward 2 or 3, one from ward 4 or 5, one from ward 6 or 8 and one from ward 1 or 7. At least one voting member shall have experience auditing or accounting.

(e) The city council shall specify the responsibilities of the board. At a minimum, the board shall provide advice to the city council on the selection, compensation and dismissal of the auditor; the appropriate amount of budget and staffing for the auditor's office; the auditing principles and guidelines that the auditor must use in conducting performance audits; the auditor's proposed annual audit plan; and the auditor's performance. In addition, the board also shall provide advice directly to the auditor on the fieldwork plans for each audit; review the completed audits for quality assurance purposes; and provide other advice to the auditor when requested by the auditor.

(f) To the extent that any of the provisions of this section conflict with section 16 of the Charter, these provisions shall control. If a question arises as to the meaning of any provision of section 15-B, the city council may authorize the auditor to retain outside legal counsel to provide advice on that question.

1-18-18 DRAFT

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# EUGENE CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY



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## Work Session: Intergovernmental Relations and 2018 Legislative Update

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Meeting Date: January 24, 2018  
Department: Central Services  
[www.eugene-or.gov](http://www.eugene-or.gov)

Agenda Item Number: B  
Staff Contact: Ethan Nelson  
Contact Telephone Number: 541-682-5245

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### ISSUE STATEMENT

This work session will provide the City Council an overview of the City's current legislative process, a short summary on the priority legislation from the 2018 Oregon State Assembly legislative short session and a recap of the January 2018 United Front trip.

### BACKGROUND

In 2013, the City Council passed a resolution calling for a more efficient process to establish and implement legislative policy. The process focuses City resources on high priority items to be reviewed and approved by the Council's Intergovernmental Relations Committee (IGR) rather than staff bringing all City related legislation to the committee.

During the 2016 and 2017 legislative sessions, staff provided regular updates on Priority bills to the IGR Committee and updates as needed to the full City Council. Based on feedback from Mayor Vinis and City Council, for the 2018 legislative session (February 5-March 9), staff will provide a weekly update email to the IGR Committee on Friday of each week, complete with a list of high priority bills, the bill summary, possible impacts to Eugene, and the City's position (support/oppose/neutral).

Current IGR Committee Members include: Councilor Taylor, Councilor Clark, and Councilor Zelenka. The Mayor regularly attends IGR Committee meetings as a non-voting member.

### *2018 Activities*

In preparation for the 2018 Oregon Assembly, staff from across the organization have contributed to an update of the 2017 Legislative Priorities document. The update reflects a culmination of technical expertise in specific areas, staff experience implementing City Code and Rules, and as members of statewide and national professional associations. During the January 22 work session, staff will review the process by which the City carries forward legislation, as well as upcoming priority bills of the 2018 legislative session.

In addition to information on the 2018 Oregon Assembly, IGR staff will also provide an update on the recent United Front trip to Washington D.C. and answer questions regarding the trip and policy book.

**RELATED CITY POLICIES**

City Council Resolution 5081, passed unanimously on February 11, 2013, created the current streamlined process for establishing and lobbying the City's legislative priorities.

**COUNCIL OPTIONS**

No Council action or recommendations are suggested.

**CITY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION AND SUGGESTED MOTION**

No council action or motions are suggested. This item is informational only.

**ATTACHMENTS**

- A. Resolution 5081
- B. 2018 Legislative Priorities
- C. 2018 United Front brochure

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

Staff Contact: Ethan Nelson  
Telephone: 541-682-5245  
Staff E-Mail: [ethan.a.nelson@ci.eugene.or.us](mailto:ethan.a.nelson@ci.eugene.or.us)



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**COUNCIL RESOLUTION NO. 5081**

**A RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE 2013 OREGON  
LEGISLATURE AND THE CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE  
ON INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS OPERATING  
AGREEMENTS ADOPTED BY RESOLUTION NO. 5043.**

**PASSED: 8:0**

**REJECTED:**

**OPPOSED:**

**ABSENT:**

**CONSIDERED: February 11, 2013**

**RESOLUTION NO. 5081**

**A RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE 2013 OREGON LEGISLATURE  
AND THE CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON INTERGOVERNMENTAL  
RELATIONS OPERATING AGREEMENTS ADOPTED BY  
RESOLUTION NO. 5043.**

**The City Council of the City of Eugene finds that:**

**A.** Section 2.007 of the Eugene Code, 1971, contains provisions regarding Council meetings and the establishment of Council groundrules.

**B.** The Eugene City Council Operating Agreements (referred to as groundrules in the Eugene Code, 1971) were adopted by Resolution No. 4588 on April 12, 1999, and have subsequently been amended, most recently by Resolution No. 5043 on October 11, 2011.

**C.** Included in the Operating Agreements is the document titled "City Council Committee on Intergovernmental Relations Operating Agreements" which contains the process for the City's participation in sessions of the Oregon Legislature. The City intends to pilot an alternate process for the 2013 Oregon Legislative Session as set forth in Exhibit A to this Resolution, and Resolution No. 5043 should be temporarily amended to enable the City to try the pilot process.

**NOW, THEREFORE,**

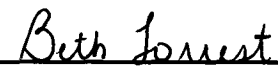
**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EUGENE, a  
Municipal Corporation of the State of Oregon, as follows:**

**Section 1.** Based on the above findings, the process for review, prioritization and lobbying of legislation for the 2013 Oregon Legislative Session shall be as described in Exhibit A to this Resolution, rather than the process set forth in Resolution No. 5043.

**Section 2.** A copy of this Resolution shall be appended to Resolution No. 5043.

**Section 3.** This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon its adoption.

**The foregoing Resolution adopted the 11<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2013.**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
City Recorder

## **Exhibit A**

### **PROCESS FOR REVIEW AND PRIORITIZATION OF LEGISLATION FOR THE 2013 LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

The 2013 session will start on February 4, 2013. The Legislature convenes annually in February at the State Capitol in Salem. Sessions may not exceed 160 days in odd-numbered years and 35 days in even-numbered years. Five-day extensions are allowed by a two-thirds vote in each house. In odd-numbered years, the Legislative Assembly convenes on the second Monday in January, to swear-in newly elected officials, elect legislative leaders, adopt rules, organize and appoint committees, and begin introducing bills.

#### **REVIEW OF LEGISLATION BY CITY STAFF LEGISLATIVE COORDINATORS**

In past years, bills have been assigned by the IGR staff to appropriate staff throughout the city. This has resulted in the generation of a tremendous amount of work, both for staff, as well as for the IGR committee, often with limited or no tangible benefit. Very few bills that we take positions on merit targeted lobbying efforts on behalf of the city of Eugene. This year, we will be approaching the legislative session in a much more targeted way, with the goal of being more efficient, and effective in our lobbying efforts.

The most obvious change in the process will be that IGR staff will no longer routinely assign bills to legislative coordinators for comments and positions. Instead, we will rely primarily on departments to identify significant legislative issues/bills that merit taking a position on and actively lobbying. Department/division staff will be asked to rely on professional affiliations and jurisdictional counterparts across the state to stay in touch with legislative issues arising in their area of expertise. In addition to bills identified by departments, bills will be identified in a two other primary ways, through the League of Oregon Cities, and through paid lobbyists. The League of Oregon Cities has recently implemented a new bill tracking software system, which will be a significant new resource this session. Additionally, the city council or city manager may identify issues that come to their attention for IGR staff. It is strongly believed that all significant legislation of potential impact to the city will be identified through this approach.

Once an issue/bill is identified by department staff, legislative coordinators will assess consistency of the issue with adopted City policies and past legislative positions, and will provide comments and a recommended position and priority for referral to the IGR committee. Bills/legislative issues brought to IGR staff should be limited to those determined to be high priority; that is, the bill would have significant impact on City operations, services, or finances in such ways as to fundamentally impact department administration, organization, personnel, allocation of City resources, or local decision-making, either negatively or positively. Examples of legislative issues that have already been identified for this session include PERS reform, telecom, and public safety. Legislation related to these issue areas could have significant

financial or operational impact on the City – therefore we plan to actively lobby the city’s interests in these areas.

## **LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY**

As described in the previous section, advocacy efforts will be narrowed and targeted to focus on a very few, high priority issues of potential impact to the City. In the past, this was done on the basis of the priority assignment and recommendation system. Because only bills of potential impact will be referred to the CELEG system, the priority assignment system will be modified. Staff will be asked to provide a “support,” or “oppose,” recommendation for all bills to be reviewed on which we want to take a position. In rare cases, there may be a need to “monitor” a bill. In that case, specific information will be provided to explain the merits of tracking such a bill.

### **Position Recommendations:**

**Support:** From the City’s perspective, we are in favor of the bill and the impacts. Legislative Coordinators should note why we are in favor of the bill and note any amendments that would make the bill better.

**Oppose:** From the City’s perspective, we are opposed to the bill and the impacts. Legislative Coordinators should note why we are opposed and make any recommendations that would make the bill better, if applicable.

### **Priority Recommendations:**

- **High Priority Bills:** We will be highly selective in identifying priority bills to be forwarded to the Intergovernmental Relations Committee (IGR). For a bill to be recommended as a high priority bill to be actively lobbied, either in support or in opposition, the bill would have a significant impact on City operations, services, or finances in such ways as to fundamentally impact department administration, organization, personnel, allocation of City resources, or local decision-making, either negatively or positively. The issues addressed by the bill are of significant interest to the City even if they do not directly impact the operations, services, or finances of the City. Examples of high priority bills could include Telecom/local pre-emption efforts, PERS reform, Public Safety, and transportation funding.
- In addition to bills identified as high priority, other bills and legislative issues may be forwarded to the IGR committee to enable staff to provide supportive or opposing written or oral testimony. Examples of issues that may require supporting testimony (as opposed to active lobbying) include support for the Oregon Cultural Trust, support for

one of our partner agencies lobbying efforts (University of Oregon, City of Springfield, EWEB), etc.

**Voting on bills:**

The IGR Committee votes on all bill priorities and recommendations.

All unanimous positions are presented on the full City Council's agenda for review and approval. The minutes of the IGR Committee are ratified by the City Council. Any bill that has been reviewed by the IGR Committee may be pulled for discussion at the request of any Councilor or by the Mayor.

If a position the IGR Committee has taken on a bill is not unanimous, the position on that bill will be Neutral until the full City Council weighs in and directs a position. If possible, the bill will then be placed on the next available City Council agenda. If time makes placing the bill on the City council agenda impossible, City council members will be emailed with the details of the bill and asked for their direction.

## 2018 Legislative Priorities

(note: highlighted items are new for 2018)

### Support Housing Opportunities and Financial Stability for Eugene Residents

- Eugene supports the preservation and expansion of programs and tools to fund the development and preservation of housing affordable to low-income persons.
- Eugene supports the preservation and expansion of funding for human services, emergency housing assistance, and other programs to meet the needs of homeless persons and those at risk of homelessness.
- Eugene supports the preservation and expansion of land use and community planning tools that enable the development of affordable housing.
- Eugene supports the preservation and expansion of tools to support financial stability, savings, and asset development for low-income persons.
- Eugene supports the establishment of stronger linkages between the housing, land use, education, and health systems at the state level to expand housing opportunities. Eugene also supports additional opportunities for state/local coordination and collaboration.
- Eugene supports State funding for sobering and detox services that are designed to transition chronically inebriated homeless to housing and treatment
- Eugene supports State funding for mental health outreach and treatment designed to transition persistently homeless individuals with mental health conditions to housing and treatment.
- Eugene supports efforts to ensure Oregon residents do not experience discrimination in housing and may access appropriate information and complaint systems. (From PDD-CD)

### Local Finance Options

- Proposals to restructure or change the State's tax and revenue system must allow local government's continued authority to finance the level of services demanded by their citizens.
- City governments are the most practical and effective providers of urban municipal services, and State or County tax policies should avoid raising revenues for duplication of city services by other jurisdictions.
- Eugene opposes the levying of property taxes by the State to fund services that are deemed the responsibility of the State.
- Eugene supports the ability to maintain local flexibility over revenue systems, retain local apportionment of revenue from State gas, liquor, beer and wine taxes, marijuana taxes and other State imposed taxes and fees, and the preservation and enhancement of state shared revenues.
- Eugene opposes the granting of new exemptions, deferrals or forgiveness of property taxes by the Legislature without reimbursement of the revenue forgone by cities.
- Eugene supports the repeal of local government preemptions created by state or federal agencies or legislation, and opposes federal or state pre-emption of local taxation authority. (CS)

## 2018 Eugene Legislative Priorities

- Eugene opposes subsidizing through taxes, services, or changes to revenue sharing formulas those businesses or households in unincorporated areas.
- Eugene supports maintaining current tax and fee authority regarding System Development Charges (SDCs) and Urban Renewal Districts.

### **Economic Development**

- Eugene will look for opportunities to strengthen the Regional Accelerator Innovation Network (RAIN), and supports additional funding.
- Support local authority to develop infrastructure that provides new economic development opportunities, especially in the area of emerging technology industries. Eugene supports the inclusion of telecommunications network funding in state-funded infrastructure projects.
- Eugene supports the development and funding of the University of Oregon's Knight Campus for Scientific Innovation.
- Eugene supports the continuation and funding for the federal Investing in Manufacturing Communities Partnerships program through our continued involvement and leadership in the Pacific Northwest Manufacturing Partnership.
- Eugene supports state funding assistance for the construction of a new Lane County Courthouse.
- Eugene supports the Cultural Arts sector as a primary economic driver. (LRCS)

### **Land Use**

- Eugene opposes legislation that eliminates or weakens existing methods of annexation.
- Eugene opposes state or federal legislative or regulatory pre-emption of local land use laws and authorities.

### **IT, Right of Way (ROW) Management and Compensation, and Taxation Authority**

- Eugene defines telecommunications to include wireless and wireline voice, data, and cable system communications, and high speed broadband services such as voice-over Internet protocol (VOIP), IPTV, OTT (Over the Top Programming), and facility based Internet Access.
- Eugene supports existing City authorization and responsibility to manage the public ROW.
- Eugene supports the existing City right to determine and collect fair and reasonable compensation, including in-kind services, for use of public infrastructure and public rights of way.
- Eugene supports the existing ability of cities and municipal utilities to own, operate, construct and provide telecommunications services.
- Eugene supports the 2015 net neutrality provisions and opposes actions that would decrease open access to the Internet through tiered pricing structures or other strategies.
- Eugene supports improvements and funding for ensuring effective cyber-security systems at state and local government levels. (CS)
- Eugene supports the preservation and expansion of funding for affordable and accessible broadband services. (CS)

### **Public Safety**

Includes Fire/EMS, Courts, Law Enforcement, and Prosecution.

- Eugene opposes efforts to increase supervisor representation.

## 2018 Eugene Legislative Priorities

- Eugene supports the narrow use of polygraph testing for pre-employment screening for sworn police officials.
- Eugene supports Alcohol Impact Area legislation or administrative rules.
- Eugene supports increased funding and training for Special Teams/Hazardous Materials Response Team for oil trains and confined space rescue.
- Eugene opposes efforts to remove fire department authority to provide input concerning fire department access and water supply on proposed development projects, and to administer all provisions of the Fire Code for maintenance of the built environment.
- Eugene supports enhancing the effectiveness of the state's emergency communications system through an increase in the 9-1-1 tax and prohibition of legislative "sweeps" from accounts managed by the Oregon Office of Emergency Management.
- Eugene supports afterschool funding for youth that contributes to the prevention and reduction of juvenile crime, including early childhood literacy programs. (LRCS)
- Eugene supports funding for state wide Teen Courts or Peer Courts that provide early intervention into first time juvenile offenders, reducing recidivism.
- Eugene supports state and federal funding for local government public safety emergency operations, disaster preparedness, and capital facilities. (CS)
- Eugene supports state and federal funding and policy support for local government community justice style programs. (CS, EPD)

### Transportation

- Eugene opposes federal or state pre-emption of local permitting and trip fee collection authority of Transportation Network Companies (TNCs) and/or Mobile Service Providers (MSPs). (PW-Airport)
- Eugene supports legislation that ensures the greatest possible flexibility for the use of funds to meet local needs.
- Eugene supports local option transportation system funding alternatives, including local option fuel taxes and local transportation system maintenance fees.
- Eugene supports policies that grant priority funding for projects when a local match is available.
- Eugene will continue to seek right of way and construction funding for the Beltline Hwy Project from River Road to Coburg Road
- Eugene supports funding opportunities to address safety on local and state roadways.
- Eugene supports legislation that allows local governments to establish (designate) speed limits on all locally-controlled streets. (PW)
- Eugene supports legislation that allows broader use of fixed automated speed enforcement cameras. (PW)
- Eugene supports state funding for intercity rail service, and more frequent and more reliable, higher-speed, customer-friendly passenger rail between Eugene and Portland.
- Eugene supports additional planning and construction funds for local communities to establish railroad quiet zones, improve safety at grade crossings, upgrade rail beds and acquire rights-of-way to facilitate "passing" areas for passenger trains and freight trains.

### Environment and Natural Resources

- Eugene supports state and federal measures to place a price on carbon emissions through mechanisms such as a carbon tax/fee or a cap and trade program.



## 2018 Eugene Legislative Priorities

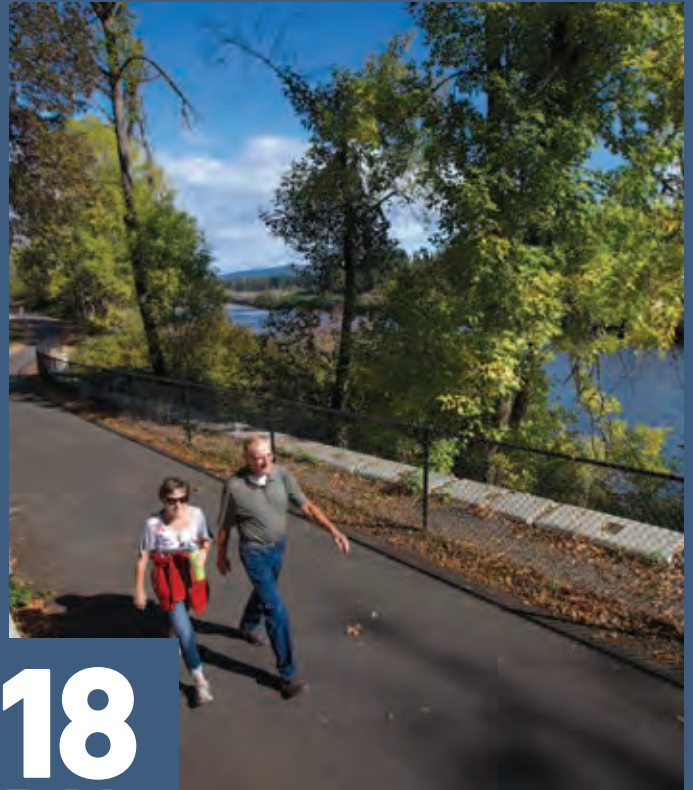
- Eugene supports measures that protect or improve surface water and groundwater quality, including potential drinking water sources.
- Eugene supports funding, programs, and land use planning tools that protect native ecosystems, preserve intact habitats for migratory species, and protect against invasive species.
- Eugene supports continuation of funding for the implementation of place-based water resources planning projects by the Oregon Water Resources Board and its implementing partners.
- Eugene supports appropriate limitations on fill and/or removal of wetlands.
- Eugene supports funding for constructing, maintaining, evaluating and renovating “green” stormwater infrastructure such as bioswales, green roofs and porous pavement.
- Eugene supports a science-based approach to waterway and wetland protections under the federal Clean Water Act and related state statutes. (PW)
- Eugene supports practical exclusions from regulation under the federal Clean Water Act and any related state statutes for constructed green infrastructure stormwater management facilities. (PW)
- Eugene supports fair and equitable water quality permit fees and accountability for demonstrating progress toward meeting commitments made by regulatory agencies collecting the fees. (PW)
- Eugene supports initiatives that assist designated management agencies in meeting their TMDL obligations related to temperature, bacteria, turbidity, and mercury.
- Eugene supports measures that facilitate economical and environmentally sound practices for managing wastewater and stormwater infrastructure, including maintaining minimum flows to protect infrastructure and reduce the risk of corrosive gas formation.
- Eugene supports funding and programs to implement measures identified in the regional Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan such as street tree planting programs, enhanced fuels reduction programs, restoration of riparian systems and other efforts to reduce the impact of flood, fires, landslides, and extreme storm events.
- Eugene supports all implementation aspects of Department of Environmental Quality's 2050 Vision for Materials Management.
- Eugene supports state funding for electric vehicle infrastructure and fleet incentives.
- Eugene supports a statewide prescription drug ‘take-back’ program. (CS-Risk and PDD)

### **Public Health & Wellness (Proposed New Category by LRCS)**

- Eugene supports Oregon initiatives that connect youth and families to nature, such as Outdoor School and Oregon’s Children’s Outdoor Bill of Rights.
- Eugene supports legislation that allows local parks agencies to receive OWEB grant dollars.
- Eugene supports initiatives that promote active, healthy lifestyles through Park and Recreation services.

### **Miscellaneous**

- Eugene supports changes to the calculation of additional death benefit for purposes of Public Employees Retirement System to include match of Individual Account Program Employee Account. (CMO)



# 2018 FEDERAL PRIORITIES



UNITED FRONT PARTNERS  
OF LANE COUNTY, OREGON





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UNITED FRONT 2018  
LANE COUNTY, OREGON







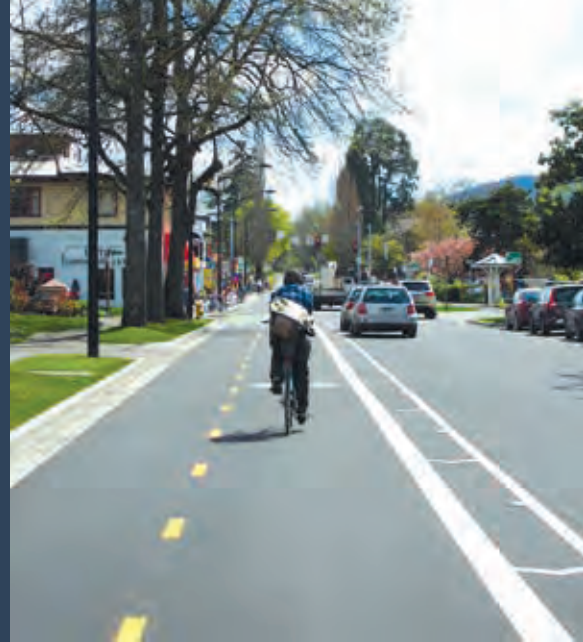


## THE UNITED FRONT PARTNERS OF LANE COUNTY ARE PLEASED TO PRESENT OUR FEDERAL PRIORITIES FOR 2018.

The United Front priorities continue to reflect our shared vision and underscore our needs for the region. As always, we are grateful for your service to Oregon and to the United Front partnership of Lane County.

Although Lane County and its cities have benefitted from recent public and private investments, we must continually seek out and leverage public and private investments to remain a viable and attractive destination for new residents and businesses. Welcoming the world to our region in 2021 for the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) World Championships is an immense opportunity to generate collective investments in the River Districts that will provide benefits long after the world track event has concluded. This has been a driving force behind our federal agenda since 2016. As such, we are pulling together to seek additional local, state, and federal resources to complete the River Districts. Nonetheless, our community's daily needs continue to demand attention, and thus, we have divided our federal priorities between the River Districts projects and our functional priorities.

You and your local offices continue to reach out to us and tirelessly represent our interests. We appreciate the delegation's thorough responsiveness to local needs and we remain your partners by providing information and recommendations valuable to your efforts in Congress. Please reach out if we can assist you or if we can answer any questions they may have about our federal priorities.



**Christine Lundberg**, Mayor,  
City of Springfield

**Pat Farr**, Chair,  
Board of Lane County  
Commissioners

**Lucy Vinis**, Mayor,  
City of Eugene

**Gary Wildish**, President,  
Lane Transit District Board  
of Directors

**Erik Bishoff**, Chair, Springfield  
School Board

**Anne Ballew**, President,  
Willamalane Park and  
Recreation District

# ATTAINING A **BETTER EDUCATED,** **TECH-SAVVY** POPULATION



**A** robust and comprehensive pre-kindergarten through college (P-20) education is the foundation of any thriving community. A high-quality, generalized education is the essential ingredient for 21st-century workplace readiness. Additionally, well-educated, competent citizens are a major draw for bringing high-paying employers to the region.

Since the Smith-Hughes Act of 1917 first authorized federal funding for vocational education, the demands of the American workforce and educational system have continually evolved. One hundred years later, the global economic landscape has changed drastically with technological advancements and industry shifts, necessitating equally drastic changes to how the United States prepares its workforce for the job market.

First passed in 1984, the Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Technical Education Act provides federal funds to improve technical education and better prepare Americans for success in the workforce. Since the act's most recent reauthorization in 2006 under President Bush, the labor demands of the American economy have continued to evolve after 10 years of rapid technological advancement. As is the case in Oregon, businesses across the United States struggle to fill vacant technical jobs in the face of shortages of qualified applicants.

We urge your support for updating the Carl D. Perkins Act of 2006 to meet the challenges job-seekers face in the modern world. Although it was not signed into law in the last Congress, the Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act garnered bipartisan support and aimed to:

- Simplify the process for local and state governments to receive federal funding, and allow more autonomy for state and local entities in how they allocate funds to Career and Technical Education (CTE) Programs;
- Improve the relevance of technical education to in-demand jobs by implementing funds for new learning opportunities, and developing partnerships between employers and educators to better serve the demands of the changing job market;
- Increase transparency and accountability by streamlining performance measures to match those in the WIOA and related laws, and by providing more inclusion for local entities in the state funding decision process, and;
- Limit federal government involvement in local CTE programs by reducing the authority of the Secretary of Education over state funding, and limiting the government's ability to withhold state funds.

Equally important to our communities is the work to implement the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), which is now beginning. The new law does away with many "federal mandates" in the areas of assessment, accountability and evaluation. Even so, the Secretary of Education approved the state of Oregon's accountability plan. The state of Oregon will work with local stakeholders and school districts to improve assessments and accountability systems, and will work diligently to identify and fill opportunity gaps. These are steps forward, but it remains unknown whether the new law is better policy. School districts continue to operate on leaner budgets adopted in a tight economy. States are burdened as it is, and although we supported swinging the pendulum away from No Child Left Behind, it remains unclear whether states will have the funding and resources to make their budgets sufficient and implement the new law successfully.



**The 2017/2018 school year is a transition year as the new law is implemented. Unintended consequences of several facets of the law are concerning, including:**

### **VULNERABLE POPULATIONS**

There are many individuals and groups worried that the accountability provisions of the new law will not support nor adequately protect those most in need of better schools—students from low income families, English Language Learners, and students with disabilities.

### **DISTRIBUTION AND FUNDING OF TITLE FUNDS**

The School Improvement Grants (SIG) program, which had been funded at around \$500 million, has been consolidated into the bigger Title I pot, which helps districts educate low-income students. Under the new law, states shall set aside either 7 percent of all their Title I, Part A funds for school turnarounds, up from 4 percent in current law, or the amount the state reserved for SIG in 2016, whichever is greater. (That would give states roughly the same amount of resources for school improvement as they get now through SIG.) It would be up to states whether to send that money out by formula, to everyone, or competitively, as they do now with SIG dollars. Alternatively, the state educational agency may directly provide those activities. Allowing competitive grants for at-risk populations, even at a state level, may leave out many small, medium, or underfunded districts that do not have the capacity to apply for funds. Due to anemic Title I funding, Springfield Public Schools eliminated Title I services in four of its elementary schools that did not meet the eligibility requirements for compulsory Title I funding (75 percent or higher participation in the federal Free and Reduced Lunch Program), but still enrolls high numbers of at-risk students. Eliminating this service translates to declines in academic support and intervention services for hundreds of students.





# FEDERAL PRIORITIES

## We urge the Oregon delegation to support:

An increase to Title funding across the board. There were no changes to the Title I funding formula that would steer a greater share of the funds to districts with high concentrations of students in poverty, but there were some changes to the Title II formula (which funds teacher quality) which would benefit rural states.

The \$1.6 billion block grant to states consolidates several programs, including physical education, Advanced Placement, school counseling, and education technology. We support funding these programs, some of which haven't received federal funding in years, but hope that there will be some discretionary funding available to support these programs going forward.

Funding for the *FCC E-Rate Program*. Springfield Public Schools desperately seeks supplemental funding for technology infrastructure. Please support the FCC E-Rate program (including returning funding for telephone and voice services) and other federal agency programs that provide technology infrastructure for schools and communities.

Fully funding the authorized level of \$1.6 billion per year for the Title IV, Part A, Student Support and Academic Enhancement Grants. Guidance to states for this program should suggest that safe and healthy activities could include those offered after school or offered in partnership with a special service district or park and recreation district. School districts will have to spend at least 20 percent of their Title IV funding on at least one activity that helps students become well-rounded, and another 20 percent on at least one activity that helps kids be safe and healthy.

Robust funding for separate line items, including the 21st Century Community Learning Centers program (now under Title IV), which pays for after-school programs, arts in education, gifted education, Promise Neighborhoods, and a full-service community schools program.

Fully funding the cost of the *Individuals with Disabilities Education Act* (IDEA) and supporting flexibility and additional resources to carry it out.

Reauthorization of the *Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act* and providing increased funding for school districts to create innovative, model career, and technical education programs.

The continuation of funds for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program in the 2018 Farm Bill.

Consistent with Section 405 (f) of the Resilient Federal Forests Act of 2017, we encourage the delegation to ensure that federal forest revenues which help support Oregon's public schools are not supplanted by state agencies and budget writers.

# PRIORITY PROJECTS

Springfield Public Schools (SPS) Expanding Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs will be necessary when SPS aligns two comprehensive high school schedules to allow for greater movement between schools for specialized programming in the area of CTE. Additionally, workforce development programs for trades and technical training, certificate programs etc. are necessary for schools with special, limited licenses to teach.

SPS is creating a natural resources career pathway program of study that encompasses the entire supply chain from resource management through advanced wood products and manufacturing.

Developing robust business partnerships to ensure curricula align with industry standards to create work ready graduates. In addition, SPS will be seeking partnerships and funding for capital improvement projects that will afford opportunities to share space and resources with industry.

SPS is seeking to support additional school resource officers.

SPS will be updating its communications technology as a result of inadequacies discovered during active shooter response training.

The City of Eugene, in partnership with Eugene School District 4J and Bethel School District, intends to apply for US Department of Education's 21st Century Community Learning Center grant to continue funding the 'BEST Afterschool' program." It fits better with the Department of Education requests.

# FOSTERING A **CREATIVE BUSINESS** ENVIRONMENT

**T**he cities of Eugene and Springfield, and Lane County continue to work purposefully and in partnership to retain and attract businesses and investors to create local family-wage jobs, support economic and community growth, and add to increasing vitality of our region. With almost 550 manufacturing companies, more than 430 technology firms, and a growing influx of entrepreneurs in all industries, the region has become one of the most desirable destinations for traded-sector firms to grow. In 2015, the United Front partners helped form the Pacific Northwest Manufacturing Partnership (PNMP), and led the effort that successfully earned them the Investing in Manufacturing Communities Grant Designation (IMCP) by the U.S. Department of Commerce, a designation that remains in place and provides the region with a platform of collaboration and focus.

In 2018 we will continue to utilize the IMCP designation, now formally recognized by the State of Oregon, and partnerships leveraged with the innovative outcomes of related project work, designs and ideas of regional partnerships, university students and industry experts, state and regional project and market feasibility assessments, targeted and organized high-output industry engagement, incorporation of locally manufactured Advanced Materials (Cross-Laminated Timber, CLT) in existing and future regional priority project construction, workforce development and on-the-job training, transportation infrastructure, and technology and telecommunications build-out within the River Districts and throughout urban and rural Lane County. These projects will increase access to community resources and facilities, ranging from our catalytic innovative parking structure,



showcasing the capabilities of mass timber construction, to the build out of the first local, publicly-owned technology infrastructure, providing high-speed low-cost publicly owned fiber to major regional employment areas and numerous residential neighborhoods, many within the River Districts. The local Brownfields Coalition partners are now managing a second successful round of EPA Brownfield Assessment funding, partnering regionally in assessing the increasingly complicated and valuable remaining opportunity redevelopment sites through effective and efficient site owner support and site assessment and cleanup planning. This work is critical to redevelopment of our River Districts identified opportunity sites, which enhance IMCP related investments, and connect the wide range of emerging infrastructure opportunities.

Access to high-speed telecommunications is critical to staying competitive in a global marketplace, in both commercial and residential spaces. In July 2015, the tech sector in Lane County received national attention with Fast Company naming Eugene one of the top ten cities for tech jobs. Eugene was recently chosen as Mozilla's next GIGABIT CITY, which enables the City to leverage additional resources through Mozilla. Eugene joins Austin, Kansas City, and Chattanooga in this prestigious distinction. The first deployment of Gigabit City funds were awarded late 2017 to Eugene and Springfield entities, leveraging the power of diverse people, pooled expertise and the region's shared unique and entrepreneurial values. The Mozilla partnership with Eugene-Springfield is a clear validation of our regional priority around the freedom, openness, and inclusion of both the industry opportunities to grow as well as access to a healthy internet.

Also in 2017, Eugene-Springfield became the newest participant in the US Ignite Smart Gigabit Communities (SGC) program. US Ignite SGC, funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF), is a nonprofit to spur the creation of next-generation gigabit applications and services that leverage advanced networking technologies to build the foundation for smart communities. The SGC program creates "living lab" environments within Ignite communities, to envision, pilot and deploy the next generation of gigabit applications first locally, and later nationally or globally. Eugene-Springfield join 24 other national and international communities participating in the SGC program.

With the building momentum of partnerships and investments in entrepreneurial technology scene, the Eugene-Springfield area is a region known for partnerships in support of research and innovation. We have historically been a place of pioneering spirit, where great ideas are tested and grown. We look forward to identifying additional partnerships and resources to further leverage the next phase of innovative technology advances supported by our local leaders and the Mozilla and Ignite partnerships.

Eugene's existing technology and advanced manufacturing sectors have estimated the new fiber infrastructure deployed in Downtown Eugene has begun to contribute to the fast growing tech industry in Downtown Eugene and the region, directly contributing to the creation of new jobs, increased property values, and exciting vibrancy and innovations. These numbers will continue to increase throughout the region with the goal of targeted fiber buildouts to a number of rural Lane County communities and further infrastructure deployment anticipated in critical neighborhoods of Springfield, driving the delivery of affordable access to the populations most in need, including k-12 students who will soon be our next wave of entrepreneurs and industry talent. The extension of broadband fiber is an example of a priority investment shared throughout the region and included within our PNMP application. This infrastructure is critical to supporting new innovations, like cross laminated timber and other engineered wood products, the expansion of existing businesses, recruitment of new, and development of talent within the current and future workforces.

Our collective vision for a strong economy combines existing regional, traded-sector clusters: advanced materials and timber manufacturing, technology, medical technology, and food and beverage processing, with an increase in work force training opportunities throughout Springfield, Bethel, and Eugene 4J School Districts, as well as the University of Oregon, and Lane Community College. This vision is implemented through key investments and partnerships in career and technical education programming, industry driven apprenticeship programs like Apprenti, the first of its kind in the United States, underway now in Lane County. All of these institutions receive and leverage federal support to create a strong economic base for the region.

## FEDERAL PRIORITIES

### **We urge the Oregon delegation to support:**

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Continue to fund the TIGER grant program and maintain set aside allocations for projects in rural areas.

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Continuing opportunities for competitive grants across all Federal Agencies with preference given to the Investing in Manufacturing Communities Partnership (IMCP) designation awarded to the region's Pacific Northwest Manufacturing Partnership. This includes funding for the U.S. Department of Commerce manufacturing communities grant opportunities that emphasize industry, and demand-driven workforce training.

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Codifying the IMCP designees so that the officially recognized partnerships will continue to benefit from federal support and funding during the current Administration (support HR. 2264, HR. 1672 and S.701).

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Passage of the Timber Innovation Act and subsequent funding for the U. S. Department of Agriculture to ensure the promise offered by the Act will be realized. The TallWood Design Institute, a partnership between the University of Oregon and Oregon State University, is uniquely poised to play a key role in the development of mass timber technologies, within urban developments across the US.

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Programs and goals of the American Innovation and Competitiveness Act, a bipartisan successor to the America COMPETES Acts of 2007 and 2010, which became law in December 2016 and supports STEM education, research, technology, and collaboration between community colleges, universities and technical schools.

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Maintaining and expanding the availability of incentive programs such as "Enterprise Zones" and "E-Commerce Zones" to encourage investment in plans that combine strategic visions for change with community-based partnerships, job growth, and sustainable community development for distressed communities.

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Sustainable funding for the U.S. Department of Education, the National Institutes of Health, the National Science Foundation, the National Institute of Standards and Technology, and the Department of Energy's Office of Science. This research funding brings millions of dollars into the local economy and functions as a long-term economic engine within the community.

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Federal partnerships and support for major higher education research facilities like the University of Oregon, Oregon State University, and the TallWood Design Institute, which specializes in the testing and promotion of advanced timber products.

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Funding for the Workforce Investment programs authorized in the Workforce Investment and Opportunity Act.

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As infrastructure development legislation evolves, ensure fiber deployment is defined as critical community infrastructure.

## PRIORITY PROJECTS

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Complete the Digital Innovation District IMCP project. Phase One includes implementing the Downtown Eugene Broadband project. The City of Eugene received \$1.9 Million in EDA public works program grant funding in 2017.

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Community-wide gigabit delivery to key Springfield residential neighborhoods through public private partnerships, creating equity for community members by providing affordable residential access to necessary data resources.

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Lane County, along with the cities of Eugene and Springfield, the respective Chambers of Commerce, and the Workforce Partnership are evolving sector strategies for tech, food and beverage, and forest products. This approach is proving beneficial and is improving the effectiveness of local economic development programs.

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Eugene/Springfield/Lane County- Brownfields Coalition was awarded a \$500,000 Community-Wide Assessment grant in 2017. Assessments will begin on approximately 16 potentially contaminated sites in target areas where residents are disproportionally impacted. Targeted areas include the Trainsong/ Whiteaker/Bethel neighborhoods of Eugene, the Glenwood and Springfield West neighborhoods of Springfield, and the Goshen area in Lane County.

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United Front partners have incorporated cross-laminated timber (CLT) into project plans for several key structures, including the Glenwood Mass Timber Parking Structure, Springfield Library, Lane County Courthouse, and Springfield Hamlin Middle School. Additionally, the new Knight Campus for Accelerating Scientific Impact announced late in 2017 that it will use CLT and advanced wood panels within the two new buildings, totaling \$200M in new science and technology centers.

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Lane County's Goshen Region Employment and Transition (GREAT) Plan has completed phase two of wastewater infrastructure feasibility study and is seeking federal resources to begin construction phasing.

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Constructing the Glenwood Riverfront catalytic project site infrastructure to connect River Districts opportunity sites and serve the Riverfront Redevelopment Area, including the CLT Parking Structure.

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Energy's Office of Science. This research funding brings millions of dollars into the local economy and functions as a long-term economic engine within the community.

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The Coos Bay Rail Link provides a critical short line railroad connection from Eugene to the International Port of Coos Bay. Ongoing improvements to the short line are increasing rail freight opportunities for shippers engaging with domestic and foreign markets.

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Lane County is often defined as a Metropolitan Statistical Area, which can lead to barriers for truly rural communities when trying to access federal opportunities.

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*Cross-Laminated Timber Parking Structure, Springfield*



# ENHANCING **TRANSPORTATION** **CONNECTIVITY**



Infrastructure Priorities and a Potential Large Infrastructure Package - The 2015 passage of the FAST Act has brought more certainty to transportation planning and created transportation programs that align well with the United Front partners transportation priorities. The FAST Act's first ever formula program designed to target freight system improvements and the new competitive grant program, INFRA could amount to strategic investments to address growth potential and decrease freight congestion in Lane County and the region, potentially along I-5. Improvements to Franklin Boulevard in Eugene and Springfield, reconstructing Highway 126W as it crosses the Fern Ridge Reservoir, expansion of the EmX bus rapid transit network, and improved active transportation connectivity through shared use paths and protected bikeways are fundamental elements of the region's economic growth and rely on federal funding to be fully realized.

Transportation is a critical link in our region's continued development. Federal funds to preserve existing system assets and to expand the system to support economic success must be increased significantly to augment the \$5.3 billion in state transportation funding that was part of the recently passed HB 2017, Keep Oregon Moving. Investments in transportation that maintain and enhance an efficient and high-quality transportation system within the community, and provide access to other business markets are critical for continued growth of a creative business environment. The River Districts vision identifies the transformation of Franklin Boulevard as a key element for successful implementation of the District concept. United Front partners are working diligently to implement new, multimodal improvements in preparation for hosting over 45,000 international spectators for the 2021 IAAF World Championships. One key element is transformation of Franklin Boulevard in both Eugene and Springfield into a multimodal street that supports walkable redevelopment. This project is identified as a priority within the River Districts vision for local partners. The City of Springfield is constructing the first phase of Franklin improvements in Glenwood, but was unable to secure a 2015 TIGER grant for phase two. With NEPA completed for all phases, 30% of the design completed for phase 2, and phase one constructed, Springfield hopes to be more competitive in future TIGER cycles or similar programs. The City of Eugene is refining an earlier multimodal street design on Franklin with the goal of entering the NEPA process by 2017 and a subsequent TIGER grant request for funding when a local match is available.

United Front partners continue to address the congestion and safety issues related to the Randy Pape Beltline and Delta Highway area. This is a critical freight corridor and local commuter pinch-point that is one of the state's top priorities to address. While the 2017 state of Oregon transportation bill provided increased funding for restoration projects and authorized jurisdictional transfers for sections of this area, we still require new funding for the design and construction of a new bridge over the Willamette River and an interchange at Delta Highway. These improvements support the efficient flow of freight from western Lane County to the I-5 Corridor, and accommodate new development in the North Eugene areas.

Lane County has three short lines and a Class 1 railroad that intersect in Eugene. Enhancing the connectivity between these lines and improving shipper access to them will result in less heavy truck traffic on Interstate 5 and routes to the Oregon Coast. Lane County is positioned to apply for INFRA funding during 2018 to address existing bottlenecks and improve local and regional intermodal facility development.

## FEDERAL PRIORITIES

### We urge the Oregon delegation to support:

Real federal funding, not just financing through P3s, tax credits or private investment incentives, in a potential infrastructure package.

Language that addresses the long-term solvency of the Highway Trust Fund (HTF) to ensure that federal surface transportation programs remain sustainable and robust.

The continuation of the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) recommending new New Starts, Small Starts and Core Capacity projects out of the Capital Investment Grant (CIG) program.

The preservation of the tax-exempt status of municipal bonds and private activity bonds as well as the preferential tax treatment of advanced refunding bonds interest.

Prioritization of funding allocations to surface transportation projects.

Greater transparency to U.S. DOT's INFRA decision-making process, so that applicants and interested stakeholders gain a better understanding of where the DOT is prioritizing these dollars and what makes a successful application.

Funding critical regional projects such as Franklin Boulevard in Eugene and Springfield, Territorial Highway in Lane County, expansion of the EmX bus rapid transit network, improved active transportation connectivity through shared use paths and protected bikeways, seismic retrofits to area bridges, and replacement of the Randy Pape Beltline Bridge over the Willamette River.

Making permanent the tax credit incentivizing short line railroads to invest private sector dollars on freight railroad track rehabilitation through passage of HR. 721 or S. 407, collectively termed the Building Rail Access for Customers and the Economy Act (BRACE Act).

Ensuring adequate funding for the Federal Lands Access Program. This program is regularly utilized by Lane County and has resulted in a myriad of improvements to roadways which would otherwise fall into significant disrepair.

Ensuring that the discretionary bus and bus facility program funds projects for systems and recipients that are good stewards of federal money and sufficiently leverage federal dollars.

Ensuring that the New Start, Small Start, and Core Capacity rulemaking on interrelated projects is completed as soon as possible.

Significant funding plus-ups for all federal surface transportation programs, specifically the New and Small Starts grant programs, which are vital to expansion of EmX and the Transportation Investments Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grant program, which is a likely funding source for RiverDistricts improvements.

Increases in the percentage of funding that is sub-allocated to local governments under programs like the Surface Transportation Block Grant Program (STBGP)

Increase funding to the competitive bus and bus facility grant program to restore the \$2.85 billion funding gap.

The STP TAP set-aside program should be changed so that:

1. Total funding is significantly increased for the new STP TAP set-aside program and the Recreational Trails Program, since funding for all other modes of transportation in the FAST Act are increased at higher rates;
2. Local governments ensure that when they flex their TAP sub-allocation dollars for other STP-eligible projects that fall outside the "historical" TAP related project, which is allowed under the FAST Act, the local governments have adequate justification for doing so;
3. The inefficiencies in the regulatory process for approving STP set aside (TAP) projects are reduced.





## PRIORITY PROJECTS

Obtaining \$7.74 Million in Rural TIGER funding to improve agricultural freight movement and operational safety for recreational and commercial vehicles, who share the road with bicyclists along Territorial Highway/ Gillespie Corners to Lorane. The County has a 60 percent local match for this project and submitted a TIGER grant application in October of 2017.

Completing the regional EmX bus rapid transit system focusing on Main Street in Springfield and the MovingAhead corridors in Eugene.

Build a second EmX lane on Franklin Boulevard in Eugene on segments where there is currently only one bi-directional lane. This is a River Districts priority.

Construction of Franklin Boulevard between Eugene and Springfield to create enhanced pedestrian and bicycle facilities, add bi-directional EmX lanes in Eugene, and support much needed redevelopment in Glenwood. This is a River Districts priority.

Constructing a bicycle/pedestrian bridge across the Middle Fork of the Willamette River to connect the Middle Fork Path with the 2300 acre Howard Buford Recreation Area (Mt. Pisgah).

Constructing a pedestrian bridge to complete the loop trail system in the Delta Ponds habitat area.

Safety improvements for Highway 126 west between Eugene and Veneta.

Potential trans-load facility in Lane County.

Enhancing the development of an intermodal facility serving customers on the Coos Bay Rail Link.

Development of a Veneta to Elmira multi-use path in collaboration with the US Army Corps of Engineers.



# PROTECTING **NATURAL RESOURCES** AND **ABUNDANT RECREATION** OPPORTUNITIES





Lane County is unique when it comes to the outdoors. Within a matter of hours, one can travel from the high Cascades to the Oregon Coast, easily taking advantage of abundant urban, rural, and wilderness experiences. The United Front partners recognize the value of these experiences for our residents and visitors, and seek to enhance access to outdoor recreation opportunities and protect natural resources. This is especially true as we evolve the planning for the 2021 IAAF World Track and Field Championships. Our global visitors will seek easy access to the Willamette and McKenzie Rivers, and will be inspired to recreate during their visit to Lane County and Oregon. Ongoing local efforts to develop and improve recreation infrastructure are focused on walking, hiking, running, bicycling, water sports, and overall pedestrian safety. Overall public health, safety, wellness and recreation is also dependent on the health and safety of our forestland, and each of these elements was dramatically impacted by the 2017 wildfires and resulting smoke. Most of the fires originated on public lands, and thus it is imperative that the US Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management are given adequate resources and policy direction to improve forest health. Our River Districts vision depends on local collaboration, and we seek to leverage federal investments and bolster local resources for infrastructure improvements necessary for 2021.

Additionally, the United Front partnership continues to collaborate on implementing long-term program investments included within Eugene's Rivers to Ridges plan and the Willamette Confluence Preserve, and to further build out Willamalane's recreational trails and Thurston Hills Natural Area. These projects provide opportunities to support a healthy population while enhancing aquatic and wildlife habitats.

While we are keeping an eye on the reauthorization of the National Flood Insurance Program, which needs to be modernized, one specific area we are concerned with is striking a balance between mitigating flood risk in Oregon and economic recovery. An on-going Endangered Species Act consultation of the National Flood Insurance Program in Oregon, has added significant agency process and financial uncertainty to public and private interests attempting to invest in areas associated with flood plains. Additionally, FEMA issued a National Flood Insurance Program Nationwide Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement in November 2017 for rule changes that will attempt to address Endangered Species Act compliance for the National Flood Insurance Program nationally, rather than the current state-by-state approach. While we support the concept of a nationwide approach, the Preferred Alternative in this Environmental Impact Statement further places the burden for ensuring compliance with the Endangered Species Act on the local jurisdiction issuing a floodplain development permit, regardless of that jurisdiction's capability or expertise to make such determinations. Local jurisdictions need acknowledgement that differing locations, waterways, and community needs are not best served by a one size fits all regulatory scheme as developed by the Oregon consultation, or by shifting the compliance burden to local jurisdictions.



## FEDERAL PRIORITIES

### **We urge the Oregon delegation to support:**

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Reauthorization and full funding at \$900 million for the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), and allocation of 40 percent of the fund to the State Assistance Program. Authorization for three years was renewed in December of 2015 and must be renewed again in 2018. Since its inception, the LWCF has provided over \$3.9 million in grant funds to 83 projects throughout Lane County, not including the \$12 million of LWCF earmark funds used to acquire the West Eugene Wetlands.

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Reform forestland management and funding under the U.S. Forest Service so that additional resources can be dedicated to suppress wildfires, which absorbed almost 67 percent of the U.S. Forest Service's budget in 2017. These wildfire disasters take away funding from other forest management programs, which are also desperately in need of updating and reforms. Wildfires in 2017 made a disastrous impact on the public health, wellness, safety, recreation, transportation and overall economy in Oregon as they did in Montana and California.

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Certainty, local and state input, realistic timelines, financial support, and a partnership in working with FEMA and the National Marine Fisheries Service as we work through the rules and implementation of the National Flood Insurance Program. The United Front partners hope this issue can be addressed through the reauthorization of the Flood Insurance Program, which expired in 2017. HR. 2874, the 21st Century Flood Reform Act passed the House in November of 2017 and awaits action in the Senate.

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Grant opportunities including: U.S. Department of Agriculture programs for Rural Development, Forest Legacy, and Community Forests; U.S. Army Corps of Engineers funding for inland waterway restoration; and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency programs, such as Brownfields, to protect our natural water supplies.

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Continued funding through FEMA for federal reimbursement for emergency response and community grants to achieve the National Preparedness Goal by improving Protection, Prevention, Mitigation, Response, and Recovery from disasters and terrorism.

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Bureau of Land Management Community Assistance Funding, which supports important fuels reduction work in the Ridgeline. This is a component of the City of Eugene's emergency management plan for wildfire risk reduction.

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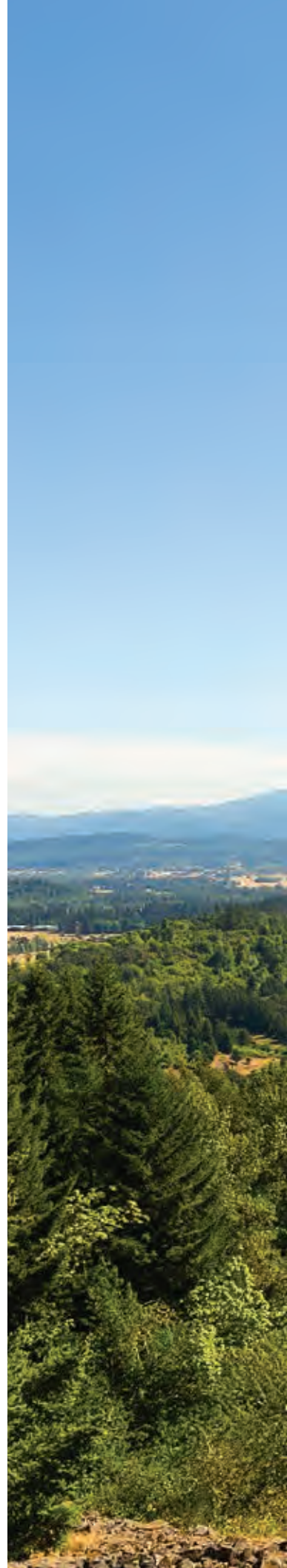
Funding authorized by the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation (WIIN) Act, which includes the Water Resources Development Act of 2016 Upper Willamette Floodplain Restoration Study and Section 219 Environmental Infrastructure projects.

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Improving access for small ports – like the Port of Siuslaw- is critical. Funds from the Harbor Maintenance Tax Trust Fund should support maintenance of ports as designed.

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Lane County's non-federal agency WRDA request to seek a USACE feasibility study within the Fern Ridge Reservoir to recognize future roadway and rail improvements along the southern boundary of the facility and enhancing recreational access to the facility.









# INVESTING IN HEALTHY PEOPLE





**W**ith the passage of the Affordable Care Act, Oregonians are benefiting from better access to health care. Recently, Lane County opened two new community health clinics to respond to the new Medicaid population, and our regional Coordinated Care Organization, Trillium Health Plan, continues to integrate primary care, dental care, and mental health care to maximize each Medicaid dollar.

This framework is the result of a successful federal CMS 1115 Demonstration Waiver, which Oregon was able to gain in 2012, which was renewed in January 2017 and runs through 2022. The first waiver brought new federal dollars into Oregon, and that funding has assisted with significant transformation of health care delivery. As a result, Oregon is providing better health outcomes at a lower cost. Where most states are experiencing annual growth in health care costs of 4.5%-5.5%, Oregon has held its growth rate to 3.4% and, with the new waiver, is committed to holding that rate through 2022. However, the new waiver through 2022 does not come with the funding included with the first waiver. Therefore, the Oregon Health Authority faces a cut to their budget by 1.4 percent and faces further uncertainty without a reauthorization of the Children's Health Insurance Program and funding for the federal qualified health centers and Community Health Clinic fund.

We continue, to struggle to recruit primary care providers and are taking concrete steps to attract new providers to our community, which is made more difficult due to the absence of a hospital-based physician residency program within Lane County.

In addition, the Oregon Health Authority and the US Department of Justice have entered into an agreement known as the Oregon Performance Plan which should substantially assist in the development of community based mental health services for those individuals with severe and persistent mental health issues. This partnership is critical as the region continues to see an increase in opioid abuse related problems.

United Front partners agree upon the need for continued funding and support of on-going programs that enhance early childhood health, education, and safety. These investments create long-term community benefits by reducing the load on social service providers over the course of a person's lifetime. While these investments are critical, our communities continue to face a homelessness crisis that impacts quality of life for all residents, and appears to be getting worse in spite of an improving economy.

Furthermore, the health of our community directly correlates with the impact our local food and beverage cluster has on enhancing community wellness through partnerships, job training, and increased access to healthy foods. Lane County's local food and beverage sector was one of the only industries that continued to create jobs during the recession. Oregon has one of the largest concentrations of food processing businesses in the United States. Lane County is rooted in heritage and a culture that supports the local food industry, with many strong players in the niche specialty: natural and craft food markets.



*Dorris Ranch*

## FEDERAL PRIORITIES

### We urge the Oregon delegation to support:

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Increased funding for federally qualified health centers (FQHCs) and programs that waive student loans for health care professionals serving under-represented regions.

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Patient access to critical ground ambulance transport services through ambulance relief. Medicare ambulance relief is essential for our citizens, and we request a long-term solution like the Medicare Ambulance Access Preservation Act of 2011 (MAPPA).

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Removing the cap on residency limits, the addition of 15,000 Medicare-funded residency positions, and permanent funding for the Teaching Health Center GME program.

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Opportunities to increase our local food exports through partnerships with the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the U.S. Economic Development Administration within the U.S. Department of Commerce.

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While the opioid related funding that was part of the 2016 21st Century Cures Act is critical to mitigating this awful epidemic, the United Front partners believe additional resources are needed to address this ongoing problem.

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Additional funding for NHTSA for drug recognition expert training, and for research to help determine impairment standards for driving under the influence of marijuana.

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HR 2345, the National Suicide Hotline Improvement Act of 2017. This measure would create a collaboration between the FCC, SAMHSA, and the VA to examine the efficacy of the current suicide prevention hotline.

## PRIORITY PROJECTS

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Willamalane Park and Recreation District has joined the growing cohort of Park and Recreation agencies across the country that are engaging in the practice of preventive public health as a top priority for overall community wellness. Within this lens they are seeking federal funding for many emerging priorities including its recently established healthy eating food program, which is not only an initiative with area schools, but will also be provided as part of all Willamalane funded youth programs, camps and facilities. Willamalane intends to broaden this to a full concessions overhaul within each of its facilities and incorporate local farmers as well.

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Lane County is plagued by the highest rate of fatalities statewide for automobile related crashes, with the majority occurring on rural roads. The County passed its first ever Transportation Safety Action Plan in 2017 with priorities in education, enforcement, and engineering.







# PROVIDING **HOUSING** AND REDUCING **HOMELESSNESS**

**C**ommunities across Lane County are experiencing a housing and homelessness crisis, exemplified by the 12,998 homeless individuals who received human services from one or more agencies in calendar year 2016. The 2017 Point in Time Count identified 1,529 people experiencing homelessness. Of those, 1003 were unsheltered, 269 were families with children, 640 were chronically homeless, 164 were veterans, 435 had a mental illness, and 254 had chronic alcohol or substance abuse issues. Lane County public school districts reported 2,388 homeless students during the 2015-16 school year.

Since 2010, US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and Home Investment Partnership Program (HOME) funding has faced drastic cuts, which has resulted in diminished capacity and resources for continuing critical programs. In contrast to national trends, many west coast cities, including those in Lane County, have experienced increases in homelessness, especially among some of our most vulnerable populations. We have growing populations, low vacancy

rates, and, as a result, housing costs that are rising significantly faster than incomes, especially for our lowest-income households.

Lane County, Eugene, and Springfield have taken unprecedented steps at the local level to respond to the crises of homelessness and housing affordability. We have committed millions of additional dollars, worked to expand shelter options and remove regulatory barriers, and engaged our local non-profit, business and philanthropic partners in a range of innovative responses to the housing crisis. To be successful in responding to this crisis, however, we will need the federal government's full partnership in the effort.

The progress made in our cities through the Administration's Mayors Challenge to End Veteran Homelessness has demonstrated what is possible with adequate federal resources to leverage local investments and with focused efforts to improve collaboration across federal, state, and local government.



## FEDERAL PRIORITIES

### We urge the Oregon delegation to support:

Increased federal investment in housing affordable to extremely low-income households, including full funding of the National Housing Trust Fund, the HOME program, the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), and a doubling of the per capita allocation of Low Income Housing Tax Credits to the states.

Increased funding for the McKinney Vento homelessness program, and increased VASH funding and \$500M for Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) program. Full funding of the Grant Per Diem program, to serve homeless veterans in our cities.

Increased funding for the supply of permanent, supportive housing for chronically homeless people, and increased rapid re-housing resources for homeless families and youth. Increased funding to support transitional housing options for youth and people in recovery.

Tax credits or other incentives for communities that convert vacant or foreclosed properties into sustainable housing for veterans, chronically homeless, or youth

Services targeted towards homeless people through federal departments other than HUD - including the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, the Department of Labor, the Department of Health and Human Services, and the Veterans Administration.

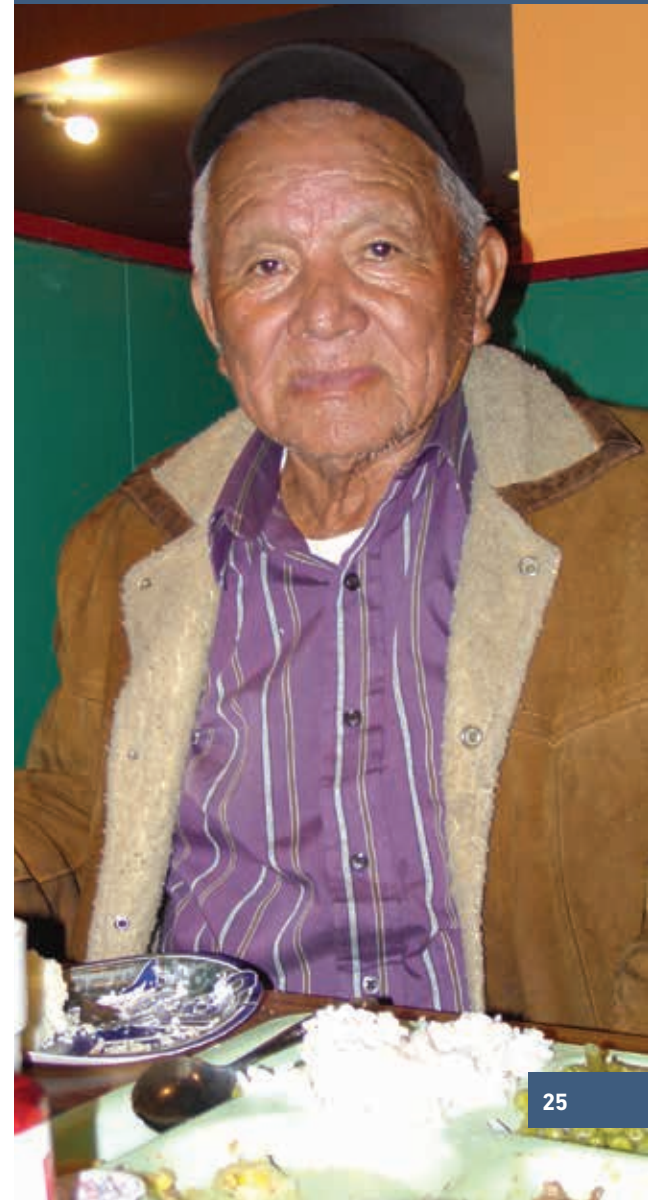
Regulatory flexibility and equitable allocation of resources for communities to utilize private market housing, which would make the use of federal and local resources more effective, and reduce local inefficiencies created by incompatible federal practices.

Expanding support for local communities in: seeking waivers to increase flexible use of ending homelessness funding, expanding access to Moving to Work authority for our local housing authorities, and amending program rules to allow effective integration of local and federal transitional and rapid re-housing programs with long-term voucher programs.

## PRIORITY PROJECTS

Lane County seeks a waiver from the Internal Revenue Service such that tax credit-financed housing (i.e. Low Income Housing Tax Credit) may be used to provide housing for those working for, or affiliated with, a designated national special security event.

United Front partners are encouraged by the development of a local initiative called "15th night", which focuses on providing resources to youth in Lane County who are navigating school and life as unaccompanied minors, with the priority being to keep these youth from dropping out of school and/or entering the criminal justice system.





# IMPROVING **PUBLIC SAFETY**



**A** key element to enjoying a high quality of life and creating a vibrant economy is a well-functioning public safety system. The loss of federal timber revenue has disproportionately impacted public safety services within Lane County. Lane County has less than adequate jail and police patrol capacities. The Lane County Sheriff's Office is barely able to provide 24-7 patrol coverage, resulting in increases in property crime and traffic fatalities. The lack of adequate funding to support mental health programs has directly impacted the work of our local law enforcements officers, who now need to spend more time responding to mental health crises, instead of addressing personal or property crimes. We seek federal assistance to increase funding available for mental health services.

Federal revenue, particularly from the Bureau of Land Management's O&C forests of western Oregon, historically provided revenue that was allocated from the County's general fund for public safety services. Throughout the 1990's, and into the first decade of the 2000's, Lane County could depend on the O&C forests to produce approximately \$14 million in general fund revenue. With a return to actual harvest receipts in 2016, Lane County's general fund is anticipating just \$1.5 million from these lands. The Lane County Sheriff's Office estimates it needs \$7.5 million annually to adequately fund patrol services. Over the past few years, federal support for the criminal justice assistance grant programs through the Department of Justice has been decreased by 43 percent. Some programs have been eliminated; others have taken deep cuts.

Lane County communities also face significant vulnerability from the prospect of a significant seismic event. The construction of an earthquake early warning system can provide vital minutes of advance warning that allows for the rapid evacuation of high-risk structures, low-lying territories at risk of tsunamis, and the protection of safety-sensitive infrastructure, including bridge lifts and freight rail.

## FEDERAL PRIORITIES

### We urge the Oregon delegation to support:

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Full funding for the Department of Justice's COPS program. Resident Deputies have proven to be popular and effective in Lane County.

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Restoring funding for the Byrne JAG program. Lane County plans to target funding for offering at-risk youth programs, reducing recidivism, and providing safe neighborhood programs.

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Passage of the Timber Innovation Act, or federal legislation that increases annual harvest volume, which will have an immediate public safety system benefit. Regular and consistent federal timber revenue sharing from the O&C lands is primarily allocated to funding public safety programs, so if federal legislation is passed, local governments should have certainty with annual funding levels.

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Funding for a "Memphis Model" multidisciplinary response team, made up of a qualified mental health and police professionals. This team could provide a follow up response for all people with multiple police contacts in mental health crises, starting with developing a response team for veterans. Research suggests that sending multidisciplinary teams reduces costly criminal justice responses, provides improved access to treatment and crisis aversion, and reduces hospitalization and jail time. It also greatly improves the timely sharing of sensitive mental health and criminal justice information, which is needed to successfully respond to crises.

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Assisting the United Front partners, the University of Oregon, and other west coast cities that are seeking \$16.1 million to build, operate, and maintain a public earthquake early warning system.

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Including report language that encourages planning for the Cascadia subduction zone to ensure maximum effectiveness of earthquake early warning.

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Supporting the City of Springfield in its pursuit of public safety grant funds through the U.S. Department of Justice.

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# ACHIEVING **FISCAL** **SUSTAINABILITY**





**A**chieving fiscal sustainability for communities across Lane County is heavily reliant upon the ability to leverage local funding mechanisms against funding available through federal programs. With the reduction of federal assistance through programs such as Community Development Block Grants, HOME Investments Partnership program, Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program, Land and Water Conservation Fund, education programs, and justice programs, we face reductions in service.

Our communities have worked hard throughout the Great Recession to reduce the costs associated with services, create new funding sources, and expand existing revenues as much as possible, but we are still falling short. We seek increased levels and year-to-year stability in federal funding available for local jurisdictions for transportation, housing, health and human services, and the criminal justice system.

**Lane County urges our delegation to continue to work on federal forest policy to reform public lands management in order to produce healthy and productive forests, including the following:**

Realistic annual timber harvest goals for each forest. While the harvest levels of the NW Forest Plan have never been met, they still stand as an important benchmark. With respect to the O&C lands, Lane County believes an annual harvest of 450-500 mmbf/yr would generate almost \$9M annually for Lane County's general fund revenue.

Provisions for land swaps. The patchwork nature of these lands increases the risk to neighboring private lands, and it is not conducive to wildlife corridor development.

Land management policies that not only address timber harvest levels, but also look to provide adequate resources to mitigate the significant impact of wildfire in the region.

A solution to the over-reliance on the National Environmental Policy Act to stall or slow timber sales. Environmental litigation continues to drain dollars from federal agency budgets better spent on actual management, and leaves our forests prone to wildfires, which exacerbates fire borrowing, and further encroaches on staff's ability to manage lands effectively.

Legal certainty for public land managers. With certainty, revenue will automatically flow to fund local government services and agency undertakings, and will stimulate employment.

Ensuring that National Forest revenue meant for schools is not supplanted by state budget writers.

Closing the loophole on stewardship contracting so that federal timber revenue is fully shared with counties.

Expanded good neighbor authority to address watershed protection and restoration and forest land roadway improvements.



## FEDERAL PRIORITIES

We urge the Oregon delegation to support:

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A balanced approach to federal deficit reduction solutions; federal assistance to state and local governments can mitigate job losses and local budget shortfalls. Federal investments in state and local infrastructure projects help produce private sector jobs and improve our competitiveness.

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Opposing deficit reduction actions that shift costs to localities, impose unfunded mandates, or pre-empt local programs and taxing authority.

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Comprehensive tax reform for a dynamic, inclusive and prosperous economy for all Americans that reflects the priorities of the United Front partners of Lane County.

## COMPREHENSIVE TAX REFORM PRIORITIES

As the House and Senate conference on the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (TCJA), the United Front partners request your help to preserve important tax provisions and programs. The United Front partners are grateful that the tax exempt treatment of municipal bonds and the low-income housing tax credit (LIHTC) are preserved in both current versions of the House and Senate TCJA bills. While we understand it is difficult to rewrite the tax code, especially when its impacts can diverge based on location of an individual or company, the United Front feels some of the provisions being eliminated are critical to our constituents and need to remain in place.

**There are several provisions in the House and Senate TCJA bills that we feel will make it more difficult to serve our community effectively. The provisions of concern include:**

**State and Local Tax Deduction:** The repeal of the ability for an individual to claim a deduction for state and local income, property or sales taxes, utilized by many of our middle-class tax filers, could negatively impact the tax burden on families and impact our ability to fund critical services like law enforcement, infrastructure projects and education costs.

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**ACA Repeal:** The Senate decided to add the provision that would eliminate the tax penalty for Americans who do not have health insurance. This was not in the House bill but if it's included in final passage we have significant concerns that it could further disrupt the insurance market, cause millions of people to lose their health care and increase the cost of health care premiums.

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**Private Activity Bonds:** The termination of private activity bonds (PABs), included in the House TCJA but not the Senate bill, is detrimental to local governmental entities because many PABs are used to finance projects in the areas of affordable and low-income housing, major infrastructure projects (surface and air) and some hospitals.

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**New Market Tax Credit:** The repeal of the New Market Tax Credit program, included in the House TCJA but not the Senate bill, will impact our region's ability to draw critical funding and financing to key economic development projects in areas that have been or are economically distressed.

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**Historic Tax Credit:** The repeal or significant changes to the Historic Tax Credit Program eliminate a critical tool, which has helped governmental entities, and local non-profits preserve historic landmarks and create jobs.

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**Advanced Refunding Bonds:** The termination of preferential tax treatment of advanced refunding bonds interest is harmful as it is a financing tool, which allows local governments to finance their debt at lower costs and increase investment in municipal capital projects and other local programs.

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**Transportation Tax Benefit:** The elimination of the employer business expense deduction for the transportation fringe benefit, included in the House and Senate TCJA bills, will disincentivize employers from offering the benefit to employees who utilize the tax free benefit to travel into work and will lower many individual's take home pay.

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**Electric Vehicle Credit:** While heartened that the Senate preserved the 30D tax credit for Plug-in electric vehicles (PEVs) in the Senate bill, the elimination of the 30D credit for Plug-in electric vehicles (PEVs) in the House TCJA bill is concerning because the credit helps promote technology, innovation and a more sustainable energy source for powering motor vehicles.

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These tax credits, exemptions, and deductions are significant sources for generating economic growth and sustaining critical projects and programs in our region and throughout the United States. We appreciate consideration of our concerns, and we ask that you support preserving and enhancing these programs as any tax reform compromise legislation moves through the U.S. Congress.







**UNITED FRONT PARTNERS  
OF LANE COUNTY OREGON**

CITY OF EUGENE

CITY OF SPRINGFIELD

LANE COUNTY

LANE TRANSIT DISTRICT

SPRINGFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

WILLAMALANE PARK AND  
RECREATION DISTRICT