

The 114th Congress
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

October 27, 2017

The Honorable Elaine Chao
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue Southeast
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

I am writing in support of Mill City's rural application for Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grant funding to fund the Mill City Downtown Restoration and Revitalization (MCDRR) Project. Mill City is seeking \$8,082,574 for transportation system improvements for freight, vehicles, transit, bicycles, pedestrians and to improve ADA accessibility to local assets. While no match is required under rural TIGER guidelines, Mill City and Linn County will provide have committed \$1.3 million in private and public non-federal cost share to the total project cost of \$9,382,574.

Founded in 1886, the City was incorporated in 1947 and currently boasts a population of 1,885 residents. Once a bustling timber town in the 1980's, changes at the state and federal level negatively impacted the timber industry and subsequently imposed significant economic hardship on Mill City's small, rural community.

This project is a critical component of Mill City's continued fight out of economic decline, and will significantly improve connections for freight, auto and pedestrian traffic from the downtown center to Highway 22, the lifeline to rural Marion and Linn Counties. Project components include the repair and renovation of Mill City's North Santiam River Bridge, the Historic Railroad Pedestrian Bridge and street and sidewalk improvements to the adjacent downtown corridor. The project will also construct a new transit shelter in advance of increased bus service from the State Capital, Salem, to the City center.

I am pleased to support this grant application consistent with all applicable laws and regulations. Should you have any questions regarding my support for this proposal, please contact Jonathan Sandau in my Salem District Office at (503) 588-4054.

Sincerely,



KURT SCHRADER
Member of Congress