



Board of Commissioners

David Henslee, Commissioner
Position One

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Position Three

February 1, 2023

Honorable Pete Buttigieg, Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE Washington, DC 20590

RE: 2021 RAISE Grant Application for: City of Klamath Falls East Main Street Bypass

Dear Mr. Secretary:

We are pleased to submit this letter supporting the 2023 RAISE grant application for the *City of Klamath Falls East Main Street Bypass*. The City of Klamath Falls is completing an application for this arterial connectivity project that will enhance safety, improve resiliency, reduce vehicle miles traveled and facilitate much needed economic development in the central part of the City.

The *East Main Street Bypass* provides the last missing connection between the northeastern and southeastern sections of Klamath Falls. This arterial connection will ease traffic congestion and improve safety on South 6th Street, the city's busiest east-west street, by providing a more direct route for travelers, including freight, on East Main Street to reach Washburn Way, a main north-south route. The project need was first identified in the 1997 Klamath Falls Urban Area Transportation System Plan (TSP) and reconfirmed in the 2011 update to that document. The project provides a new 0.58-mile three-lane roadway, with complete walking and bicycling facilities.

The East Main Street Bypass is needed to support economic growth in the corridor by providing additional connectivity parallel to South 6th Street. The area of the project is located in a census tract identified as an area of persistent poverty, according to the US Department of Transportation mapping tool.

In addition, the project will provide access to buildable lands within the city's urban core, providing a planned economic boost to the region without promoting urban sprawl or increasing vehicle miles traveled.

We are proud to support this important project. Thank you for your favorable consideration of the *City of Klamath Falls East Main Street Bypass*.

Sincerely,

David A. Henslee
Commissioner

Kelley Minty
Vice-Chair

Derrick DeGroot
Chair