

February 9, 2021

RE: Oregon Community Paths Application – Springfield Northeast Critical Links

Dear Oregon Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee,

The Springfield Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) would like to express our support for the City of Springfield's Northeast Critical Links application.

Springfield BPAC consists of nine community members and advises the Springfield City Council and City staff on bicycle and pedestrian matters in Springfield. Additionally, there are liaisons on the committee from the City Council, Planning Commission, Willamalane Park and Recreation District, and Springfield Safe Routes to School.

Funding the Springfield Northeast Critical Links request would be a big step forward in realizing our vision to create a complete network of off-street paths for people walking, biking, and using other forms of active transportation throughout our community. We have heard from Thurston neighborhood residents in east Springfield that completing the McKenzie River Path and Moe Mountain Path missing links would be a transformative improvement. One resident shared that she advocated for these projects a couple of decades ago to improve connectivity and still awaits the changes.

Filling in these missing path links would not only improve connectivity, but would also provide significantly safer options for biking in Springfield. Riding on the shoulder of the OR 126 Expressway is less safe than a separated, off-street path and traveling miles out of direction by bicycle to use Main Street or Daisy St to the south is indirect.

Northeast Critical Links would also support our community values of providing healthy, active transportation options. The path connections would connect more residents with the beautiful McKenzie River and natural areas along its riverbanks.

Springfield BPAC eagerly awaits the results and hopes that Northeast Critical Links will make the funding list. Funding this project would leave a lasting legacy for generations to come.

Sincerely,

The Springfield Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee

