



401 Center Street NE #172, Salem, OR 97301
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January 6, 2022

Kristin Retherford
Director of Urban Development
350 Commercial Street NE
Salem, OR. 97301

Dear Kristin Retherford and Urban Renewal Agency Board,


This letter is a request for a Riverfront-Downtown Urban Renewal Grant to cover the costs to remove the existing skybridge that connects Salem Center Mall (401 Center Street NE) and the former Nordstrom building (420 Center Street NE). The removal of the skybridge will allow the demolition and redevelopment of the former Nordstrom Building to proceed.

This skybridge has been under the care of Salem Center ownership since inception in 1979. The current ownership of Salem Center is a bank receivership that does not allow for capital expenses not directly related to tenant leases or operations, resulting in a financial hardship to cover unexpected costs estimated to be up to \$200,000 to remove the skybridge. Salem Center fully supports the redevelopment effort and is agreeable to the skybridge removal with the understanding that current and future Salem Center mall ownership deny any obligation and/or responsibility for costs associated with removal of the skybridge.

The new Nordstrom property owner has given notice of their intent to terminate the skybridge agreement. In an effort to not hold up the substantial positive economic impacts provided by the redevelopment, Salem Center Management (JLL) is prepared to manage the demolition of the skybridge if grant funds are approved and subsequent repairs to the Salem Center building resulting from the skybridge removal are made.

Salem Center ownership is requesting Agency Board approval of a grant and to structure a commitment to allow the grant to be transferable to new mall ownership in future.

Thank you for your consideration.

Rian Fechtel 
Jones, Lang, LaSalle (JLL)
General Manager – Salem Center