

July 28, 2020

David Helton
Transportation and Growth Management Program Lead Grant Manager
ODOT Region 2
2080 Laura Street
Springfield OR 97477

Dear Mr. Helton:

I am pleased to write this letter in support of Salem's TGM Grant Application for an Urban Trails Implementation Plan. Urban trails are an important element of the transportation system, creating opportunities for people to walk and bike to destinations away from busy traffic. Increased walking and bicycling trips help mitigate greenhouse gas emissions and resultant climate change. Trails also play a role in supporting public health goals.

City Council has heard strong support for urban trails. The City has a strong network of trails in certain parts of the city, including Minto Brown Island Park and Riverfront Park. The trail network is more fragmented in most other areas of the City. The City's adopted plans call for many miles of new or upgraded trails connecting people to destinations. What is important now is to have a plan that will guide implementation and help target allocation of limited resources.

City Council supports this project and asks that you strongly consider this funding request.

Sincerely,

Chuck Bennett
Mayor