

CITY OF SPRINGFIELD, OREGON

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT



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RE: Local Government Support for Oregon Lidar Consortium

To whom it may concern,

From the perspective of local government, the ability to obtain high quality lidar data through the Oregon Lidar Consortium (OLC) has been a key enabler in several critical areas.

Lidar products from OLC enable valuable updates to our city base maps with respect to changes in topography, structures and various types of natural features. These maps in turn support public works facilities management and community development. As a result of prolonged budget shortfalls, existing base maps had lacked adequate updates for over twelve years prior to our last OLC lidar delivery. Maps did not adequately reflect large area commercial and residential development. Our maps also showed inaccurate alignments of the McKenzie and Willamette rivers surrounding our jurisdiction and changes to vegetation throughout the City were out of date. Without the ability to pool funds and acquire large areas of precise lidar data with OLC, such updates would have been delayed further.

Base map updates are of high import as these maps serve as a critical tool to meet our obligations as city government, including our need to explore urban growth boundary refinement, refine commercial and residential lands inventories, assess public infrastructure serviceability and evaluate environmental constraints, such as endangered species habitat (along the rivers and protected waterways flowing through developed areas) and flood hazards. OLC products have enabled meaningful progress with these map updates.

In addition to base mapping, analysis of the OLC deliverables has been of great value to the City. Analysis of 3D point clouds identifies obstacles that interfere with radio networks, including public safety systems and intelligent transportation systems communication networks. Analysis of ground models aid street design and slope analysis on hillside development, isolation and analysis of vegetation points aid in estimating biomass, as well as analyzing shade and other factors along streams to advance and assess progress towards wetland restoration. On a regular basis we are discovering new uses for OLC products, and in nearly every case we are finding that these products allow us to produce better results with less time and fewer funds.

The City of Springfield has been an OLC partner for many years, has benefited from OLC outputs and encourages the State Legislature to continue funding this important program.

Thank you for your time,

Brandt Melick.
Information Technologies Department Director