



April 22, 2021

The Honorable Betsy Johnson, Co-Chair
The Honorable Elizabeth Steiner Hayward, Co-Chair
The Honorable Dan Rayfield, Co-Chair
Joint Committee on Ways & Means
900 Court Street NE, Room H-178
Salem, OR 97301

RE: City of Springfield Testimony on American Rescue Plan Act Funding

Dear Co-Chair Johnson, Co-Chair Steiner Hayward, Co-Chair Rayfield, and Members of the Joint Committee on Ways & Means:

The COVID-19 pandemic has triggered a crisis that combines health, economic, and social components – particularly for people of color, immigrants, and low-wage workers – that cities are struggling to address with significantly reduced revenue and resources.

The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) is a unique opportunity to address this crisis and the City of Springfield appreciates the efforts of Joint Committee on Ways & Means to gather input on how best to move forward. In addition to specific projects we believe are critical to address the health and welfare needs of our community that have been laid bare as a result of the pandemic, we also want to underscore that the City is ready and willing to work with state and regional partners to leverage federal and state funding in order to hasten the road to recovery.

Over the past year, the City has identified several needs that align with the ARPA guidance, from investments in infrastructure to public safety services:

- Eugene Springfield Fire Needs – City of Springfield \$850,000 / Total \$2.95 million
 - Radios – City of Springfield \$720,000 / Total \$2.32 million
 - Wildland PPE – City of Springfield \$30,000 / Total \$100,000
 - Bunker Gear – City of Springfield \$50,000 / Total \$150,000
 - Medication Station – City of Springfield \$50,000 / Total \$100,000
 - City of Eugene – Total \$2.1 million (includes additional items – Type 6 Wildland Apparatus and a Forklift)
- Broadband Micro- Carrier Hotel - \$750,000
 - The City of Springfield has set a priority for improvements and expansion of access to high quality, low cost, broadband. An initial pilot micro-carrier hotel project for Downtown fiber expansion is in planning through a NSF funded US Ignite grant. Once planning is completed, the City will need approximately \$750,000 to construct the facility. This facility may serve two-fold, expanding internet service provider access by extending a pathway into the Downtown 'hotel' while also assisting in improving and building resiliency into the critical public fiber also to be located in the same facility (in a secure portion).
- 42nd Street Levee Feasibility Study - \$100,000 (50% match to US ACOE)
 - The 42nd Street Levee in Springfield no longer meets federal flood certification standards, but has traditionally provided flood control to protect over 1/3 of Springfield residents and multiple billions of dollars in property and public assets. Thanks to the assistance of our federal delegation, the US Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) is moving through a process to fully fund a Federal Interest Determination and the follow-on scope of a Feasibility Study. After that, ACOE will expect Springfield to pay for 50% of the actual Feasibility Study. The Feasibility Study is a necessary component on the path to a permanent McKenzie Levee solution, and would begin in 2022.

- Sierra Pine Redevelopment - \$8.5 - \$10 million
 - Redevelopment of 40 acre industrial site requires substantial investments in the publicly owned frontage road skirting two of the four sides. Improvements are needed to address equity, safety and environmental issues that are a barrier to redevelopment of this key site and improved valuation of nearby homes. The project includes improvements to nearby waterways.
- New Manufactured Home Park - \$3 million
 - Springfield has a number of manufactured dwelling parks that are at risk of closure, potentially contributing to the housing instability that has only been exacerbated by the pandemic. The City needs funds to assist with the cost of land acquisition and infrastructure for a new park in order to address the needs of low-income and displaced individuals.
- City Hall Seismic Upgrades - \$1,028,000
 - Essential civic infrastructure, the Springfield City Hall includes the Springfield Public Library and has undergone a seismic analysis with several key recommendations that need to be addressed to protect the multitude of community services accessed at this location along with key computer server locations in the event of a seismic event.
- Concept Engineering for a Union Pacific Rail Trestle - \$85,000
 - Concept Engineering for a Union Pacific Rail Trestle design in Glenwood that specifically includes safe bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure under the rail trestle on McVay Hwy (aka Franklin Blvd south) and on the planned Glenwood Riverfront path, both of which run under UP's main line.

Thank you for your consideration of these critical investments. The City of Springfield stands ready to work with you and your colleagues as we continue to serve, support, and protect our community, and facilitate the recovery of our city and the state.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sean VanGordon", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Sean VanGordon, Mayor
City of Springfield