



March 24, 2023

Joint Committee on Ways and Means Sub-Committee on Capital Construction
Senator Fred Girod, Co-Chair
Representative Paul Holvey, Co-Chair
900 Court Street, NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Request for state funding for Eugene's Crow Road Housing Project

Senator Girod and Representative Holvey;

The City of Eugene formally requests the consideration of the Joint Ways and Means-Capital Construction Sub-Committee to allocate, as part of the 2023 allocation, approximately \$3.5 million to support the Crow Road Housing Project.

Our state and city are experiencing a housing crisis, with Eugene being considered severely rent burdened community (31% of households spend more than 50% of their income on rent). In addition, according to the DLCD, Eugene will need to produce 1,200 housing units annually to support our expected population growth and address the existing shortage of housing. In an effort to increase housing affordability and supply, the City has identified priority areas within the current urban growth boundary where city infrastructure investment could accelerate housing production. Long planned for housing and jobs, the area of West 11th Avenue and Crow Road can bring an additional 1,260 housing units and over 850 jobs to the region. The area is largely undeveloped and is planned and zoned for single and multi-family housing, commercial and industrial, with access to natural areas, transportation networks, goods and services, including being within 1-1.5 miles from a frequent transit station.

However, the area is not served by wastewater or water infrastructure, and this project would deliver new wastewater service to West 11th and Crow Road and adjacent areas, widen Crow Road to support people walking and biking, and install facilities to extend potable water. To reduce financial barriers and expedite housing production in this area, Eugene seeks \$3.5M in state funds that we will match with \$600,000 to invest in infrastructure in the Crow Road Area.

The timeline for these investments is now, through 2025, given the urgency of the housing situation in Eugene. If we receive lottery bond funding that would arrive in 2025, we likely won't be able to expedite projects, but if we receive general fund dollars in 2023, the City can be in construction within 12 to 18 months. For more information on the project, please refer to the attached project overview. Thank you for your consideration and support for the Crow Road Housing Project.

Sincerely,

Mayor Lucy Vinis