



May 9, 2025

Co-Chair Fred Girod
Co-Chair Rob Nosse
Joint Committee on Ways & Means
Subcommittee on Capital Construction
Oregon State Legislature

Dear Co-Chairs Girod, Nosse, and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the City of Springfield, I am writing to ask for your support of funding for three critical projects that are essential for public safety, mobility, and economic stability in our community. These projects—the 42nd Street Levee Feasibility Study, Q Street and Mohawk Boulevard Improvements, and the Citywide Sidewalk & ADA Curb Ramps Project—represent urgent and necessary investments in Springfield’s long-term resilience, accessibility, and transportation infrastructure.

42nd Street Levee Feasibility Study – \$480,000

The 42nd Street Levee is a vital flood protection system that safeguards 24,000 residents, 7,500 structures, and over \$4 billion in property value. However, at over 60 years old, it no longer meets federal levee safety standards. The City of Springfield, in collaboration with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), is conducting a feasibility study to evaluate the levee’s condition and develop a comprehensive strategy for repairs and recertification.

The requested funding will allow Springfield to meet federal match requirements and proceed with geotechnical assessments and engineering analyses, ensuring we have the necessary data to plan for flood risk reduction and long-term levee integrity. Investing in this feasibility study is a proactive step to enhance public safety and prevent costly future disasters.

Q Street and Mohawk Boulevard, Phase I – \$1,000,000

The Q Street and Mohawk Boulevard intersection is a heavily trafficked corridor that is deteriorating rapidly, with aging pavement and infrastructure reaching the end of its useful life. The area also has a deteriorating wastewater mainline that requires replacement in the near future.

The Phase I funding request will support a 30% design phase, including preliminary engineering, cost estimates, and project scheduling. This investment will enable the City to plan and scope a future project to fully reconstruct the roadway, intersection, and wastewater infrastructure, ensuring safe and efficient traffic flow while accommodating anticipated growth and mixed-use development in the area.

Sidewalk & ADA Curb Ramps – \$3,200,000

Improving pedestrian access and ADA compliance is a key priority for the City of Springfield. Many of our sidewalks and curb ramps do not meet current ADA standards, limiting mobility for seniors, individuals with disabilities, and families with young children.

The requested funding will enable the City to:

- Conduct a comprehensive inventory of sidewalk and curb ramp deficiencies using mobile LiDAR scanning and artificial intelligence.
- Integrate accessibility improvements into existing construction projects to extend upgrades efficiently beyond immediate project limits.
- Ensure that critical sidewalk gaps and outdated curb ramps are addressed to improve walkability and compliance with ADA standards.

By leveraging advanced technology and existing project coordination, we can maximize efficiency and cost-effectiveness while making Springfield safer and more accessible for all residents.

Conclusion

Each of these projects aligns with Springfield's commitment to safety, infrastructure resilience, and equitable access to essential services. These improvements will enhance flood protection, transportation efficiency, and pedestrian accessibility, benefiting our entire community.

We urge the prioritization of funding for these essential projects, which will support public safety, economic development, and long-term infrastructure sustainability. Thank you for your leadership and consideration of these vital investments. We look forward to continued collaboration in building a stronger and more resilient Springfield.

Sincerely,

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

Sean VanGordon
Mayor, City of Springfield