

February 21, 2023

Senator Ron Wyden  
221 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20002

Senator Jeff Merkley  
313 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20002

Dear Senator Wyden and Senator Merkley:

Southern Oregon Regional Economic Development, Inc. (SORED) asks for your strong support for various City of Medford projects as you consider requests for Congressionally Directed Spending. The City of Medford, as our region's largest city, impacts numerous surrounding communities and investment in these initiatives will boost opportunity, resiliency, livability, and safety throughout Southern Oregon.

SORED is the EDA designated Economic Development District for our region, and we house the region's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS), which we call our One Rogue Valley Strategy. Each project offered by the City of Medford addresses one or both of the following CEDS initiatives:

**INITIATIVE 4. TOURISM** Support the organizations and places that strengthen the tourism and experiential environment in Southern Oregon.

**INITIATIVE 5. PLACEMAKING** Nurture an environment that preserves Southern Oregon's quality of life for residents, businesses, and visitors.

**Midway Inclusive Community Park and Urban Trail System** – The City of Medford is seeking funds to develop an inclusive community park and urban bike trail in an underserved area of downtown Medford. Midway Park is an undeveloped 30-acre park property located on the Bear Creek Greenway in a densely populated low-income area. With limited opportunity for recreation or economic development in the local vicinity, completion of inclusive recreation facilities at Midway Park will enhance neighborhood vibrancy and create opportunities for disadvantaged populations. Specifically, funding would be used to develop an accessible playground, splash pad, restroom, community garden, pavilion, and sport court with an adjacent bike park and urban trail system. The bike park would include dirt jumps, a pump track, slopestyle features, and skills trails for all skill levels. This park will provide a unique regional draw to the community, while providing residents and those who can't access local trail systems an easily accessible, progressive place to learn.

CEDS 4.4. Grow the region's outdoor recreation and organized sporting industries.

CEDS 5.3. Spearhead initiatives that prioritize healthy, safe, and inclusive communities.

**Medford Clean Disposal Initiative** – The City of Medford is seeking funding for wastewater infrastructure improvements that would allow safe and environmentally sound disposal of fats, oils, and greases (FOG) resulting from food processing and cooking. Currently, the

FOUNDING UNDERWRITER  
Jackson County  
Josephine County  
City of Grants Pass  
City of Medford  
EXECUTIVE UNDERWRITER  
AllCare Health  
Asante  
Avista Utilities  
Banner Bank  
Breeze Capital Management, LLC /  
Standard Financial  
Brophy Schmor, LLP  
Cow Creek Band of Umpqua  
Tribe of Indians  
ECS Composites  
First Interstate Bank  
Harry & David Operations  
Hunter Communications  
Lithia Motors, Inc.  
Moss Adams, LLP  
PacifiCorp  
People's Bank of Commerce  
Plexis Healthcare Systems  
Regence BlueCross BlueShield  
Rogue Credit Union  
Tribal One  
Umpqua Bank  
US Bank  
UNDERWRITER  
Amy's Kitchen  
Ausland Group  
Boise Cascade, LLC  
Britt Music and Arts Festival  
Carestream  
Cascade Wood Products  
Coldwell Banker Commercial NW  
Cummins, Inc.  
Cutler Investment Group  
Dutch Bros  
Evergreen Federal Bank  
Fire Mountain Gems & Beads  
Jackson County Fire District #3  
JB Steel, Inc.  
KDRV  
KeyBank  
Knife River  
KOGAP Enterprises, Inc.  
Lava Lanes  
Linde Group  
Mahar Homes, Inc.  
MasterBrand Cabinets, Inc.  
Medford Fabrication  
Met One Instruments  
Morgan Lodging, LLC  
Murphy Company  
Naumes, Inc.  
Navigator's Hospitality, LLC  
NIC Industries  
NiceBadge  
OMEP – Oregon Manufacturing  
Extension Partnership, Inc.  
Oregon Tech  
ORW Architecture, Inc.  
Outlier Construction  
Pacific Retirement Services  
Providence Medford Medical Center  
Rentec Direct, LLC  
Rogue Community College  
Rogue Disposal & Recycling  
(Rogue Waste)  
Rogue Valley Precast  
Rogue Workforce Partnership  
S & B James Construction  
South Ashland Business Park, LLC  
S.O. Education Service District  
Southern Oregon Sanitation  
Southern Oregon University  
SPACE, LLC  
Tekmanagement  
Valley Immediate Care  
ZCS Engineering & Architecture

closest FOG disposal site for Rogue Valley residents is located nearly 100 miles away in Roseburg, Oregon. Without a nearby disposal option, much of the region's FOG waste from residents and businesses is poured into drains or dumped in wooded areas, which causes health hazards for homes, strains the regional wastewater system, and damages the environment. CDS funding will help address this issue by constructing a FOG disposal site at the Medford's Regional Water Reclamation Facility (RWRF), which serves Medford, Central Point, Talent, Phoenix, and White City.

**CEDS 5.3. Spearhead initiatives that prioritize healthy, safe, and inclusive communities.**

**Incident Command Center** – The City of Medford is seeking funding to acquire a Mobile Incident Command Center, which will provide a central hub for coordinating emergency response. Wildfires, hazardous material emergencies, and other public safety incidents often require multi-agency response across police, fire, and other departments from multiple jurisdictions. A mobile command center will support a unified command structure, coordination of resources, radio interoperability; provide a protected location for personnel and equipment; and enable a robust organized response to emergencies in southern Oregon.

**CEDS 5.3. Spearhead initiatives that prioritize healthy, safe, and inclusive communities.**

**South Medford Safety Improvements** – The City of Medford is seeking funding to add a second northbound right turn lane to the intersection of Highland Drive and Barnett Road to mitigate traffic backing up into the South Medford Interchange. Located at Exit 27 off Interstate 5, the operations of the South Medford Interchange are regularly impacted by congestion at the existing intersection where there is a high traffic demand coming from I-5 toward the medical employment corridor on Barnett Road to the east. This prevents the interchange from clearing the traffic that is exiting the freeway and causes a backup of vehicles onto the mainline of I-5. With vehicles traveling over 55 miles per hour toward stopped traffic this congestion creates a severe safety hazard. Improving the intersection will extend the useful life of the South Medford Interchange and improve access and safety along Interstate 5 for all users of Medford's local transportation system.

**CEDS 5.3. Spearhead initiatives that prioritize healthy, safe, and inclusive communities.**

**SORED I thanks you for your attention to these projects and urges your support of them through Congressional Directed Spending for the City of Medford. Thank you.**

Sincerely,



Colleen Padilla, Executive Director  
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Review the full One Rogue Valley Strategy here: [www.soredi.org/about/regionalstrategy](http://www.soredi.org/about/regionalstrategy)

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Cow Creek Band of Umpqua  
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Harry & David Operations  
Hunter Communications  
Lithia Motors, Inc.  
Moss Adams, LLP  
PacifiCorp  
People's Bank of Commerce  
Plexis Healthcare Systems  
Regence BlueCross BlueShield  
Rogue Credit Union  
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Medford Fabrication  
Met One Instruments  
Morgan Lodging, LLC  
Murphy Company  
Naumes, Inc.  
Navigator's Hospitality, LLC  
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