

MIKE SIMPSON

SECOND DISTRICT, IDAHO

WASHINGTON OFFICE:

2084 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-5531
FAX: (202) 225-8216

DISTRICT OFFICE:

802 WEST BANNOCK STREET, SUITE 600
BOISE, ID 83702
(208) 334-1953
FAX: (208) 334-9533
simpson.house.gov



CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

SUBCOMMITTEES:

ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT,
AND RELATED AGENCIES
RANKING MEMBER

INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT,
AND RELATED AGENCIES

LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES,
EDUCATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES

Honorable Peter DeFazio
Chairman
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
U.S. House of Representatives
2165 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Honorable Sam Graves
Ranking Member
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
U.S. House of Representatives
2165 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chair DeFazio and Ranking Member Graves:

I am requesting funding for the State Street Premium Corridor Project in surface transportation reauthorization legislation.

The project sponsor for this project is Valley Regional Transit which is the designated recipient for Federal Transit Authority urban funds in Boise, ID, and the project is located at State Street/Hwy 44 between State Street and 9th Street and N Horseshoe Bend Road, Boise/Garden City, ID 83703.

The funding is designated to continue construction of premium transit corridor improvements that will enhance passenger facilities and amenities. Part 2 projects include:

- Real-time bus information, which will let passengers know when the next bus is coming.
- Off-board fare payment so passengers do not slow operations by paying the fare onboard.
- More visible shelters, benches, bus stop signs and improved lighting so the public will know transit is available, safe and comfortable.
- Improved pedestrian and bicycle connections to bus stops so more people, including those with disabilities can access the bus.
- Near-level boarding so it is faster to get on and off the bus and traffic keeps moving.
- Bus pull-outs, where necessary, to improve the traveling public's safety.

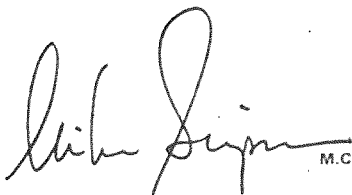
The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer dollars. With between 800 and 1,000 boardings a day, the State Street corridor is the highest ridership transit corridor in the Treasure Valley. It provides important connections to businesses, government offices, and educational institutions such as Boise High School and Boise State University. It also provides connections to everyday services, shopping and recreational activities for the 13,000 people living within a ¼ mile of the corridor.

By improving passenger amenities and speeding up transit, this project will make affordable access to jobs and education more attractive and reliable. Access to jobs and education is a key determining factor in individual success and in building vibrant and resilient communities. This is especially true on State Street

which has a significant refugee population and lower income households without vehicles. The project improvements will also address safety concerns along the corridor and mitigate traffic impacts of growth through increased ridership.

I certify that neither I nor my immediate family has any financial interest in this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Mike Simpson", with the initials "M.C." written in small capital letters at the end of the signature.

Mike Simpson
April 20, 2021