

Date

Department of Land Conservation and Development
635 Capitol Street NE, Suite 150
Salem, OR 97301

Subject: TGM Grant Authorization Letter for the City of La Pine

The Deschutes County Board of County Commissioners supports the proposal submitted by the La Pine Planning Department for funding from the Transportation Growth Management Grant offered by the Department of Land Conservation and Development and Oregon Department of Transportation. The efforts that the City is initiating to update the Transportation System Plan (TSP) is of high priority as Central Oregon continues to grow.

The City of La Pine is the youngest city in the state, with an incorporation date of 2006. The La Pine TSP was originally adopted in 2013, with minor updates in 2021. The 2013 TSP was a great starting point for the transition from Deschutes County to the city, but there are many parts of the plan that are now either inaccurate or out of date. In the last 11 years, La Pine has experienced pronounced growth and development. In 2023, the population was calculated by the Portland State Population Research Center at 3,126. With housing and land costs in the city remaining below average for the Central Oregon region, individuals who cannot afford housing in some of the larger cities in the region are choosing to live in La Pine. According to the Portland State Population Research Center, from 2022 to 2023, La Pine ranked 2nd in the state for growth. Portland State conservatively forecasts the population to increase in La Pine by 87% in the next 25 years. It is of note that within the Newberry Neighborhood master planned development area, approximately 367 acres of residentially zoned land remains undivided, and could be developed at any time.

Additionally, the Planning Department has initiated a full comprehensive plan update (La Pine 2045), aimed to better position the city for the pronounced growth that will occur over the coming years. La Pine 2045 incorporated a visioning process that harbored input from the community through survey responses. The top priority of the citizens within the city is an investment in infrastructure and traffic management. A full TSP update will coincide with the comprehensive plan update that is slated to be completed in June of 2025, and will help to address the community's top priority.

In light of these facts and forecasts, it is indicative that a full TSP update is not only timely with the comprehensive plan update already underway, but also urgent due to the pronounced growth and challenges that our community is currently facing. Accomplishing a full TSP update will not only ensure the community's vision is carried out into the future to shape the City of La Pine, but also ensure that the integrity of the community is maintained.

Sincerely,

THE DESCHUTES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS