



COMMUNICATION PACKET MEMORANDUM

No decisions will be made based on the information provided herein. The memorandum is for informational purposes only.

July 11, 2025
Friday

1. Application to maintain our status as a Bicycle Friendly Community
2. Update on the Springfield Home Repair Program and client letters.

MEMORANDUM

City of Springfield, Oregon

Date: 06/25/2025
To: Nancy Newton, City Manager
From: Sandy Belson
Subject: Application to maintain our status as a Bicycle Friendly Community

COMMUNICATION PACKET MEMORANDUM

INFORMATION SHARE:

This memo provides information on the City of Springfield's recent Bicycle Friendly Communities (BFC) application prepared and submitted by Emma Newman, Transportation Planner. It also highlights bicycle-related progress made since the City of Springfield applied for and received a Bronze award in 2018, and cites efforts underway to improve bicycling.

As part of the evaluation process, the League of American Bicyclists will survey the community from July through October to collect input from community members about bicycling in Springfield. The results of this survey will provide valuable input to the City about people's experiences and perspectives on bicycling in Springfield.

Background Information

The City of Springfield applied to be a "Bicycle Friendly Community" through the League of American Bicyclists program (visit bikeleague.org/bfa/ for more information). The City first applied to the Bicycle Friendly Community program in 2018. Cities need to re-apply to maintain their status and for the opportunity to achieve a higher level of award.

The application has five main sections, covering the following topics:

1. Equity & Accessibility: A Bicycle Friendly America? for Everyone
2. Engineering: Creating safe and convenient places to ride and park
3. Education: Giving people of all ages and abilities the skills and confidence to ride
4. Encouragement: Creating a strong bike culture that welcomes and celebrates bicycling
5. Evaluation & Planning: Planning for bicycling as a safe and viable transportation option

Benefits of Applying

The following outcomes resulted from completing the application process:

- Increased communication between City staff, local agencies, community groups, and individuals engaged in bicycling in Springfield
- Established the first quality Geographic Information System dataset for existing bike facilities, including bicycle network analysis that included categorizing by speed vs. type of bike facility
- Added resources to active transportation webpages on the City of Springfield website
- Posted bicycle and pedestrian request tool temporary signs along paths throughout Springfield to increase utilization of the existing tool and keep our biking and pedestrian facilities better maintained

Springfield Bicycle Friendly Community Highlights Since 2018

- Recovered from Covid-19 and significantly expanded bicycle education efforts, primarily thanks to the Springfield Safe Routes to Schools program
- Launched PeaceHealth Rides bike share in Downtown and are currently expanding the service area to include additional areas in and around Downtown Springfield and the Shoppes at Gateway.
- Updated bicycle parking standards and established motor vehicle parking maximums by adopting the Transportation System Plan Implementation Project in 2020
- Removed motor vehicle parking minimums
- Upgraded bike parking at 13 of 20 Springfield Public Schools

- Installed publicly available bike fix-it stations with bicycle pumps
- Constructed Arrow Park bike skills course
- Expanded and enhanced the bicycle network, including addressing the blind corner transition from the Northbank Path to West D Street and adding mountain bike trails

Award Timeline and Opportunities for Improvement

The League of American Bicyclists will assess Springfield's application and grant an award in December 2025 based on how well we meet the standards. The League will provide us with a scorecard and a list of recommendations for improvement.

Many people who filled out the spring 2018 Bicycle Friendly Community Survey recommended more bike paths as one of the top things to do to improve bicycling in our community. We also know from a Lane Council of Governments 2024 Travel Benefits and Barriers Survey that residents of Springfield want:

1. more bike accessible areas/lanes
2. quality bike parking available at more destinations,
3. to feel safer on the roads, and
4. to live closer to stores and services.

The following bicycle-related improvements are currently in progress:

- Mill Street Reconstruct project -- adding bike lanes and separated bike facilities to a street that previously had no bikeway
 - Laura Street project -- completing missing gap in bike lane network
 - Citywide streetlight LED upgrades to improve visibility
 - Virginia-Daisy Bikeway major crossing enhancements (S. 42nd/Daisy, S. 32nd/Virginia) and a bikeway segment on Virginia Ave from S. 32nd St to S. 42nd St
 - Walking and Biking Network Improvements (various flashing crossings, refuge islands, and path connections)
 - Franklin Blvd Phase 2 construction to continue separated bike facilities through Mississippi Ave intersection
 - Bike Parking Upgrades project that plans to install 146 new bike racks and three covered parking shelters
 - Starting the citywide Walk and Roll Springfield: Active Transportation Plan
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MEMORANDUM

City of Springfield, Oregon

Date: 07/07/2025
To: Nancy Newton, City Manager
From: Sandy Belson
Subject: Update on the Springfield Home Repair Program and client letters.

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INFORMATION SHARE:

The Springfield Home Repair Program provides home repair services to very low-income homeowners (those making 50% or less of the area median income). For a one-person household, the income limit is \$32,100 per year, two people is \$36,700, and four people is \$45,850. Using federal Community Development Block Grant funds, the Home Repair Program hires local licensed and bonded contractors to correct conditions that create a threat to the health and safety of residents. It also pays for accessibility improvements to help residents age in place.

The City of Springfield has been allocating funds to the Home Repair Program for at least 35 years. It has been a pillar of Springfield's Community Development Block Grant funding. In addition to making homes safe for the occupants, this program preserves the existing housing stock long-term. This past fiscal year, the City assisted 76 households with 166 different repairs. The Home Repair Program sets a \$10,000 maximum per household for repairs over a five-year period.

Demand for home repairs exceeded allocated resources this year, so early in June, the City backed off of issuing work orders. Typically, the City starts spending the next fiscal year allocation in July, but with recent shifts at the federal level, staff has decided to delay funding of most repairs until we have the assurance of a signed agreement with the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). HUD has allocated funds to Springfield within its current budget, so this year's funding is not part of the current Congressional negotiations which will affect funding for the city's next fiscal year, which starts July 2026. We expect to have a signed agreement around the end of August. In the meantime, for urgent health and safety needs, staff may decide to authorize an emergency home repair on a case-by-case basis. Staff will continue to process applications, confirm a client's household income, and conduct an environmental review on the home, so we are ready to issue work orders to qualifying clients once we have the signed agreement with HUD.

The City featured Amy Orre, Housing Programs Assistant, in its recent video series "In the Field". Here's a link to that video <https://app.box.com/s/0apqda4dyg74ikiqhkfiva2me31haj52>. Attachment 1 is a letter of gratitude from the daughter of the homeowner shown in the video.

Attachment 2 is a letter from Tina Day who expresses her gratefulness for help provided by the Program.

Attachments

1. Letter from Gabehart
2. Letter from Day

May 22, 2025

Dear Springfield Energy Home Repair,

I'm writing this letter to express my gratitude for assisting and supporting my 91 year-old mother, Ellen Gabehart, throughout the years. You have provided her with a safer environment (handrails and non-slip stairs), have brought her the comfort most of us take for granted (being able to cook on a working stove and take a warm bath with working plumbing) and have prevented internal damage and mold development (leaky roof repair).

Your assistance, however, has positively impacted more than just my mother. Your assistance has reached into the lives of her other family members as well. I am the sole relative providing my mother financial support when she needs help with such things as car repairs or hearing aids. Besides my mother, I am also the sole person helping my daughter who uses a wheelchair and has many medical expenses not covered by insurance she cannot afford to pay. Your support has been a blessing in my life and allows me to provide financial support to both my mother and my daughter. I definitely could not afford to fix or buy the things you have helped with in addition to what I am already assisting with. Therefore, you have greatly helped improve the lives of three people, not just one.

Thank you so much!

Gigi Aaron

March 16, 2025

To Whom it may Concern:

I live at W. M. St. Springfield OR 97477.

I have lived here for 35 yrs.

We raised our 4 children here.

My husband was diagnosed with cancer on Sept 14, 2020. I have been taking care of him.

Recently I had my Kitchen sink, our hot water heater, and my bathroom sink all break down. Our son fixed the Kitchen sink. I could not afford to fix the other items.

I found out that there could possibly be a program through the City of Springfield that may help.

I went in to the Development and public works-Housing Programs Assistant.

I talked to Amy Orr. She helped me fill out an application.

We were both on disability and low income. She helped replace the water heater, fix the bathroom sink. Also a pipe under our house was not hooked up.

If it wasn't for this program I would not have been able to care for my husband properly.

This program is a God send.

I am so grateful for all the help it provided.

My husband passed away on Feb 16, 2025. We had been together 38 yrs.

I can't say enough about this program. Amy Orr was extremely nice, helpful and kind. I'm so grateful.

Thank you so very much. Tina Day (Tina Day)