



**Brooklyn Action Corps  
Portland, Oregon**

August 5, 2010

Ray LaHood  
Secretary of Transportation  
US Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE  
Washington, DC 20590

RE: Southeast Corridor Project: Connecting Communities TIGER II Grant Proposal

Dear Secretary LaHood:

The Brooklyn neighborhood association, Brooklyn Action Corps, fully supports the *Southeast Corridor Project: Connecting Communities TIGER II* grant proposal. The project will dramatically improve access and create more vibrant and livable communities by providing safer bicycle and pedestrian connections through a vital industrial corridor. These modest investments also will improve freight operations within the Southeast Region by reducing travel times, and in turn reducing the sector's impact on climate change.

In particular, we urge you to support a new **Rhine Pedestrian Bridge**. The existing substandard pedestrian bridge is in extremely poor condition, effectively cutting off access for most of the Brooklyn Neighborhood to Powell Park, Cleveland High School, and other amenities east of the busy railroad tracks. A new bridge will enhance bicycle and pedestrian connectivity for vibrant residential neighborhoods, schools, employment centers and future light rail.

We also support the other efforts of this TIGER II grant application:

The **Clinton to the River Multi-Use Path** provides a critical connection within the region's bicycle and pedestrian network, linking dense, vibrant neighborhoods with employment, educational institutions, the 21-mile Springwater Corridor multi-use path, the East Bank Esplanade and the future Willamette River Bridge. This vital bicycle and pedestrian connection encourages active transportation choices and reduces carbon emissions.

The relocation of **SE Water Avenue** will support new multimodal connections to educational institutions, employment, cultural attractions, and bicycle and pedestrian facilities, while protecting freight mobility and creating redevelopment opportunities. The **Oregon Pacific Railroad and Yard Improvements** complement the SE Water Avenue

project, and allow for the relocation of four steam engines from the Union Pacific Railroad's Brooklyn Yard, freeing up space at this key intermodal facility.

The **Kellogg Lake Pedestrian and Bicycle Bridge** addresses the immediate hazard associated with illegal crossing on an adjacent freight rail trestle by establishing a vital link in the regional bicycle and pedestrian network.

Improved integration of freight, bike, pedestrian and transit modes address several critical livability issues in our community, providing cost-effective solutions to global warming. These improvements also serve to increase healthy choices in our neighborhood and help residents reduce their family's budget for transportation and parking.

For the Portland region transportation is not just about how we get from point to point, but how those points are connected and how we choose to get there. The Southeast Corridor Project recognizes that sustainable connections create livable neighborhoods and healthy communities. The Brooklyn Action Corps strongly encourages you to fund this proposal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michael T. O'Connor". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Mike O'Connor, Chair  
Brooklyn Action Corps