



August 6, 2010

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

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

Dear Secretary LaHood:

On behalf of the residents of Milwaukie and the Milwaukie City Council, I urge your support of the Southeast Corridor Project: Connecting Communities TIGER II grant proposal. The projects continue a regional strategy of building sustainable, livable communities in the Portland region. A crucial element of that strategy is expanding travel choices through local, state, and federal transportation investments. The five elements of the Southeast Corridor Project all contribute to making the Portland region a greater place—more livable and more economically competitive.

The City of Milwaukie is committed to the revitalization of our historic downtown core and has made significant investments toward that end. For instance, the City brought together numerous state and regional partners and committed City funds to allow North Main Village to be completed. North Main Village added 8,000 square feet of commercial space and one hundred new housing units to downtown. The City has also recently purchased several properties, contributed to a \$4 million boulevard project, and has commenced early phases of construction of a new Riverfront Park.

As we envision the future of downtown Milwaukie, we see new residents moving into downtown, but we also believe that downtown can reclaim its position as the heart of the community's civic and cultural life. That will require expanding the ways that local residents can reach downtown. A network of highways and rail alignments criss-crosses Milwaukie, which is both a blessing and a curse. To overcome these barriers, we must find partners who share our vision and will join us in investing in projects that encourage walking and biking. The Kellogg Lake Pedestrian and Bicycle bridge is a critical element in this effort, re-connecting downtown to the neighborhoods to the south, which are currently quite isolated and separated from downtown.

I respectfully request your careful consideration of the Southeast Corridor Project: Connecting Communities.

Sincerely,

Mayor Jeremy Ferguson

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