



August 13, 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:

On behalf of the Portland City Council, I am writing in support of the City of Portland's TIGER II Grant Proposal, the *Southeast Corridor Project: Connecting Communities*. This proposal builds on the success of existing regional investments and ensures the integration of the corridor's transportation options with future development in this vital inner-ring industrial district. The proposal will support new employment opportunities, integrate those new jobs with efficient transportation choices, and help improve the health of our citizens.

The **Clinton to the River Multi-Use Path** and the **Rhine Pedestrian Bridge** will provide connections within the region's bicycle and pedestrian network, linking dense, vibrant neighborhoods with employment and educational institutions. They will connect to the existing 21-mile Springwater Corridor and East Bank Esplanade multi-use paths, increasing the use and connectivity of both facilities.

Both of these improvements will offer Portlanders healthier, more economical transportation choices. As we plan for "20-minute neighborhoods" where city residents can meet all of their daily needs within a 20-minute walk or transit trip, this type of active transportation improvement will make those neighborhoods a reality.

The **relocation of SE Water Avenue** will create new multimodal connections for educational institutions, employers and cultural attractions. At the same time, it will enhance freight mobility and catalyze redevelopment opportunities. The **Oregon Pacific Railroad and Yard Improvements** allow for the relocation of four vintage steam engines currently housed at the Union Pacific Railroad's Brooklyn Yard, providing space to expand operations at that key intermodal facility. Both project elements are critical to supporting freight movement – and the 17,000 jobs – in Portland's Central Eastside Industrial District.

In addition to its active transportation, employment and freight mobility benefits, this project will help reduce auto congestion on several busy arterials and ease the movement of both truck and rail freight into and out of the Central Eastside Industrial District and the Brooklyn Rail Yards. The result will be concrete, cost-effective solutions to help our city address global warming and reduce greenhouse gas emissions as called for in Portland's Climate Action Plan.

We urge you to fund this project, which will help support a thriving business environment and build several key pieces of infrastructure needed to sustain and strengthen our region's green economy.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Sam Adams,
Mayor



Nick Fish,
Commissioner



Amanda Fritz,
Commissioner



Randy Leonard,
Commissioner



Dan Saltzman,
Commissioner