



# PORTLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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CLEVELAND HIGH SCHOOL

Office of the Principal

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

July 27, 2010

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

Dear Secretary LaHood:

Cleveland High School fully supports the Southeast Corridor Project: Connecting Communities TIGER II grant proposal. This project will build upon the future Portland-Milwaukie Light Rail Project and dramatically improve bicycle and pedestrian connections between vibrant neighborhoods that are bisected by industrial corridors.

We are particularly excited about the **Rhine Pedestrian Bridge**, which addresses immediate safety concerns with the existing substandard bridge and enhances bicycle, pedestrian and public transit connections for our students and staff. A safe, inviting bridge over the busy freight tracks near our school will create more options for active transportation and maximize use of bus and future light rail transit for our students residing in the Brooklyn and Sellwood-Moreland neighborhoods.

The **Clinton to the River Multi-Use Path** provides another 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. These improvements will transform the safety of pedestrian and bicycle connections and remove existing conflicts between bicyclists, pedestrians and freight.

These vital bicycle and pedestrian connections encourage active transportation choices, improve neighborhood livability and reduce negative impact of carbon emissions on the environment. They also serve to increase healthy choices and help families reduce their budgets 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. Cleveland High School strongly encourages you to fund the Southeast Corridor Project: Connecting Communities.

Sincerely,  
*Leslie Butterfield*  
Leslie Butterfield, Vice Principal