



Executive Council for
Active Transportation

August 12, 2010

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

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

Dear Secretary LaHood:

As chair of the Executive Council for Active Transportation, I am writing in support of the *Southeast Corridor Project: Connecting Communities* grant proposal under the Transportation Investments Generating Economic Recovery II (TIGER II) program. We are a group of health care providers, business owners, corporate executives, elected officials and non-profit representatives. Our mission is to champion completing a seamless, safe and green bicycle and pedestrian system for our region, thereby making biking and walking true transportation options.

The *Southeast Corridor Project* TIGER II project will vastly improve the safety, efficiency and capacity of all travel in an expanding and developing corridor. Portland is a leader in active transportation, with eight percent of the population using a bicycle as their preferred mode of transportation. This project will enable more bicyclists and pedestrians to access the nation's first multi-modal, non-auto bridge. The Clinton-to-River multi-use path will serve over 12,500 cyclists a day by 2030. The project recognizes that a region needs a variety of approaches to create truly livable communities. On its own, the Portland-Milwaukie light rail project will increase transit access and mobility; the *Southeast Corridor Project* leverages over \$45 million invested in the project, and will create continuous walking and biking routes, protect and expand freight capacity and provide new opportunities for development and brownfield redevelopment. The improvements will decrease conflicts between modes and add new connections to transit, schools and jobs.

This project will demonstrate to the nation that investing in safe biking and pedestrian routes with good connections to public transportation is good for our economy, our environment, our health and the livability of our communities. We urge you to fund this important project.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Nicholas
Chair, Executive Council for Active Transportation

Members of the Executive Council for Active Transportation

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