



August 6, 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:

As Chair of the Island Station Neighborhood Association, I respectfully request your action in support of the Southeast Corridor Project: Connecting Communities TIGER II grant proposal. The proposal includes several projects throughout the corridor and I am confident that each is worthy. However, my particular interest is in the Kellogg Lake Pedestrian and Bicycle Bridge project element.

Island Station is not literally an island, but figuratively it is somewhat isolated by several barriers: the Willamette to the west, Highway 99-E to the east, and Kellogg Lake to the north. It is an older neighborhood with several historic homes and has a well-established identity. However, being so cut off from downtown Milwaukie is a real detriment—to both Island Station and downtown! Currently, residents who dare to walk to downtown either must take round-about routes or risk their lives on the freight rail trestle. The proposed bridge would create a link to both a long-awaited and hoped-for park and to downtown Milwaukie.

Improved pedestrian and bike connections are important for the day-to-day quality of life for residents in the area and will promote healthier lifestyles for people of all ages, including Milwaukie High students living in the neighborhood and residents who look forward to traveling by light rail, once that is established in downtown.

I strongly encourage you to fund the Southeast Corridor Project: Connecting Communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "E. Perkins", is written over a horizontal line.

Eric Perkins
Chair, Island Station NDA