



## **Serving the North Clackamas Region Since 1955**

*A Member-Driven Organization Committed to a Vibrant Business Environment*

August 12, 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:

The North Clackamas County Chamber of Commerce fully supports the Southeast Corridor Project: Connecting Communities TIGER II grant proposal. The projects both directly and in-directly support the economic health and competitiveness of the region. The freight-focus projects clearly help to limit the cost of goods and services in the region. In addition, the non-freight projects also translate into more disposable income due to savings in transportation costs.

The Chamber has several members in downtown Milwaukie and we have been working with the City and other partners to support revitalization and reinvestment in the downtown core. Building and improving access to downtown merchants and services is a critical element to business success in the downtown and fulfilling downtown's civic function, as well. The Kellogg Lake Pedestrian and Bicycle Bridge helps knit downtown to Island Station and other neighborhoods to the south and would be a great addition to the attractiveness of the area.

With this important opportunity to strengthen the region's livability, the North Clackamas County Chamber of Commerce strongly encourages you to fund the Southeast Corridor Project: Connecting Communities.

Sincerely,

*Wilda Parks*

Wilda Parks, ACE  
President/CEO