



**NORTH
CLACKAMAS
PARKS & RECREATION
DISTRICT**

August 3, 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:

North Clackamas Parks District (NCPRD) fully supports the Southeast Corridor Project: Connecting Communities TIGER II grant proposal. The proposal combines several projects to establish a complete transportation network and supports several other important recent or planned investments, including the Portland-Milwaukie Light Rail (PMLR) Project and the Trolley Trail. The Southeast Corridor Project will greatly expand access to numerous destinations and support the creation of more vibrant and livable communities. NCPRD supports all elements of the proposal, including:

- **Clinton to the River Multi-Use Path**
- **Relocating SE Water Avenue.**
- **Oregon Pacific Railroad and Yard Improvements**
- **Rhine Pedestrian Bridge**
- **Kellogg Lake Pedestrian and Bicycle Bridge**

NCPRD provides park services to the City of Milwaukie and is especially eager to see the Kellogg Lake Pedestrian and Bicycle Bridge constructed. NCPRD is developing the 6 mile regional Trolley Trail that will connect to the Kellogg Lake Pedestrian and Bicycle Bridge, forming a "rail to trail" project that will form a key north-south multi-modal transportation connection in Clackamas County. Providing a direct connection between the Trolley Trail and downtown Milwaukie improves access to multiple destinations including several schools and the downtown retail district.

A key element of the Clackamas County Sustainability Action Plan is to expand transportation choices. The project leverages existing investments in the plan and brings the partners closer to realization of our goal of reducing the use of fossil fuels and greenhouse gas emissions. Gaps in the pedestrian and bike networks within the urbanized areas of Clackamas County are barriers to healthy transportation choices. Overcoming these barriers is critical to improving livability and expanding healthy choices for our community. NCPRD strongly encourages funding the TIGER II Southeast Corridor Project: Connecting Communities.

Sincerely,

Gary Barth
Director

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