



**PORTLAND-MILWAUKIE**  
LIGHT RAIL PROJECT

August 6, 2010

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

Dear Secretary LaHood:

On behalf of the Portland-Milwaukie Light Rail Project Citizens Advisory Committee, I want to express our support for the Southeast Corridor Project: Connecting Communities grant proposal under the Transportation Investments Generating Economic Recovery II program (TIGER II).

The Southeast Corridor Project: Connecting Communities (Proposed Project) builds on the Portland-Milwaukie Light Rail Transit (PMLRT) Project, supplementing this regional transit investment with enhanced bicycle and pedestrian connectivity, expanded freight capacity, and new opportunities for brownfield redevelopment.

A \$16 million TIGER II grant will leverage millions of dollars in investment along this corridor by our regional partners, including the light rail and streetcar projects, the future Trolley Trail, the Clinton Bike Blvd., the Springwater Corridor and the future expansion plans at the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry and at the Portland Opera.

We support the SE Water Avenue Relocation, which protects freight mobility and creates redevelopment opportunities, while supporting new multimodal connections to educational institutions, employment, cultural attractions, and bicycle and pedestrian facilities. The Oregon Pacific Railroad and Yard Improvements complement the SE Water Avenue project, and allow for the relocation of four steam engines from the Union Pacific Railroad's Brooklyn Yard, in turn freeing up space for expansion at that key intermodal facility.

We support the Clinton to the River Multi-Use Path, which provides a 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.

We support the Rhine Pedestrian Bridge, which addresses immediate safety concerns with the existing substandard bridge and enhances bicycle and pedestrian connectivity between residential neighborhoods, schools, employment centers and light rail.

We support the Kellogg Lake Pedestrian and Bicycle Bridge, which addresses the immediate hazard associated with illegal crossing on an adjacent freight rail trestle, and establishes a vital

link in the bicycle and pedestrian network. The new bridge would enhance access for residents of the Island Station neighborhood and provide better access to schools, light rail and downtown Milwaukie's retail district.

We urge you to approve this request for TIGER II funds. The interconnected elements of the proposed project will leverage the region's investment in bikeways, pedestrian facilities and the PMLR project, and will support freight mobility, redevelopment potential, and expanded opportunities for transit ridership.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rick Williams", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Rick Williams, Chair  
Portland-Milwaukie Light Rail Project  
Citizens Advisory Committee