



Portland Streetcar

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August 11, 2010

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

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

Dear Secretary LaHood:

On behalf of Portland Streetcar Inc., I want to express our support for the Southeast Corridor Project: Connecting Communities TIGER II Grant Proposal. This proposal builds on the success of the other regional investments and will ensure the successful integration of the corridor's industrial businesses with future development and provide safe and reliable transportation choices for commuters, employees and visitors to and from one of Portland's most vital working districts.

Building the Portland Streetcar was one of the important transportation decisions made by the City of Portland. It has enhanced business growth, livability and housing options. Streetcar corridors are expected to play a key role in helping the city absorb some of the one million new residents Metro expects in the region by 2035. This proposal will support new employment with efficient and integrated transportation choices while improving the health of our citizens and the livability of our communities.

The **SE Water Avenue Relocation** creates new multimodal connections to streetcar, educational institutions, employment, and cultural attractions while creating brownfield redevelopment opportunities for job growth in the Central Eastside Industrial district. This is essential to the future success of the district and the many businesses and institutions sited there in affecting jobs, income and economic competitiveness. In addition, this project provides connections to major bicycle and pedestrian routes and improves safety for the more than 900,000 annual visitors to the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry.

The **Oregon Pacific Railroad and Yard Improvements** allow for the relocation of four steam engines from the Union Pacific Railroad's Brooklyn Yard, providing space for expansion of that key intermodal facility.

TIGER II grant funds will leverage local and regional funds as a local match that can assist the region's economic recovery. The project will prepare this working district by integrating our transportation investments with the existing infrastructure and economic development opportunities, like the Portland Streetcar, to strengthen Portland's green economy with greater access the Southeast Corridor that links our neighborhoods with commercial districts and employment centers.

Portland Streetcar, Inc. firmly believes the Southeast Corridor Project: Connecting Communities Project will encourage a thriving business environment. We urge you to award funding to this vital initiative.

Sincerely,

Michael Powell, Chair
Portland Streetcar, Inc.