



CAROLYN TOMEI
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
DISTRICT 41
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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 a resident of the Island Station Neighborhood, a former Mayor of Milwaukie, and as a member of the Oregon House of Representatives, I am writing in support of the Southeast Corridor Project: Connecting Communities TIGER II grant proposal. This proposal builds on the previous investments made throughout the region in transit and muscle-powered transportation infrastructure. Implementation of the Southeast Corridor Project will dramatically improve access and create more vibrant and livable communities by providing safer bicycle and pedestrian connections through a highly used and important vital industrial corridor.

Portland, like most regions, faces numerous transportation challenges. Fortunately, the region has a clear agenda of expanding transportation choices and supporting key freight movements. The Southeast Corridor Project has a good balance of both of these approaches and will support the development of the region as a whole.

The Kellogg Lake Bicycle and Pedestrian bridge will bring substantial improvement to the quality of life of my neighbors and the community as a whole. The project will help to knit the neighborhoods immediately south of downtown to the downtown, the heart of the community. Commute trips—to school or to work via transit—will be substantially shortened, making walking and biking a more viable alternative. Just as importantly, recreational trips in the area will be much more attractive, as a much-under-utilized local asset (the future park site to the south of Kellogg Lake) is opened to access. These are the kinds of improvements that transform a place into a community.

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

Sincerely,

Representative Carolyn Tomei