

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

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AND URBAN AFFAIRS

BUDGET

August 23, 2010

The Honorable Ray LaHood  
Secretary of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary LaHood:

I write to express my support for the joint application by Tri-Met, the Cities of Portland and Milwaukie, and the Portland Metro Regional Government for a \$10,310,660 million Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) II grant for the Southeast Corridor Project: Connecting Communities.

The goals of this project are consistent with the intent of the TIGER II program to fund high-impact and innovative transportation investments that promote mobility, a cleaner environment, and more livable communities. In addition, this project will reduce our nation's carbon footprint and dependence on foreign oil, while simultaneously creating jobs and spurring economic development in depressed areas.

Our nation's economic recession has significantly impacted the entire state of Oregon, and this project will have tremendous impact on the efficiency of Oregon's transportation system, its environment and the lives of its citizens for years to come.

Thank you for your full and fair review of Tri-met, the Cities of Portland and Milwaukie and the Portland Metro Regional Government's TIGER II grant application. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Johnell Bell in my Portland field office at 503-326-3386.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey A. Merkley  
United States Senator