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August 16, 2010

Honorable Ray LaHood
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary LaHood:

I am writing to express my support for the Southeast Corridor Project: Connecting Communities TIGER II grant application jointly submitted by the City of Portland, Tri-Met, Metro and City of Milwaukie. It is my hope that the U. S. Department of Transportation will favorably consider this proposal which, if funded, will significantly enhance the region's transportation infrastructure and quality of life.

I believe an investment of this type will deliver significant long-term benefits in transportation and economic development, while enhancing livability, sustainability, and safety. Additionally, it will both sustain existing jobs and create a significant number of new jobs—another important goal of the TIGER grant program.

This collaborative proposal by the City of Portland, Tri-Met, Metro and the City of Milwaukie is a light rail project which will catalyze neighborhood transformation along the corridor, setting the stage for community and employment redevelopment and increased mobility. Therefore, consistent with your customary practices and procedures, I urge you to give full and favorable consideration to the Southeast Corridor Project: Connecting Communities TIGER II application.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Jay Ward in my Portland, Oregon office at (503) 326-7542.

Thank you for your consideration of my views in this matter.

Sincerely,



Ron Wyden
United States Senator

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