



Winterhaven School

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Mark Sandilands, Principal
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August 13, 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:

Winterhaven School fully supports the Southeast Corridor Project: Connecting Communities TIGER II grant proposal. This project will build upon the future Portland-Milwaukie Light Rail Project and dramatically improve bicycle and pedestrian connections between vibrant neighborhoods that are bisected by industrial corridors.

As a K-8 school just a few blocks from an active railroad corridor, we urge your support for the **Rhine Pedestrian Bridge**, which addresses immediate safety concerns with the existing standard bridge. The existing bridge, about a quarter-mile from our school, is in such poor condition that many families are discouraged from using this important link between neighborhoods. A safe, inviting bridge over the busy freight tracks will create more options for active transportation and maximize use of bus and future light rail transit for our students.

The **Clinton to the River Multi-Use Path** provides another 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. These improvements will transform the safety of pedestrian and bicycle connections and remove existing conflicts between bicyclists, pedestrians and freight.

These vital bicycle and pedestrian connections encourage active transportation choices, improve neighborhood livability and reduce negative impact of carbon emissions on the environment. They also serve to increase healthy choices and help families reduce their budgets for transportation and parking.

For the Portland region, transportation is not just about how we get from point to point, but how those points are connected and how we choose to get there. The Southeast Corridor Project recognizes that sustainable connections create livable neighborhoods and healthy communities. Winterhaven School strongly encourages you to fund the Southeast Corridor Project: Connecting Communities.

Sincerely,

Mark Sandilands, Principal
Winterhaven School