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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

April 17, 2014

Secretary Anthony Foxx
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

RE: Metro (Portland) 2014 TIGER grant application---Southwest Corridor and Powell-Division Opportunity Crescent projects.

Dear Secretary Foxx:

I write in support of Metro's 2014 TIGER grant funding application for the Southwest Corridor and Powell-Division Opportunity Crescent projects.

The Southwest Corridor and Powell-Division projects focus resources on five important places and the educational institutions that define them: the Mt. Hood Community College area; the Portland Community College Jade District; the region's Innovation Quadrant; the Portland Community College Sylvania neighborhood area; and the Tigard Triangle. The region has a vision of better connecting the east and west sides of the Portland metro region with high-capacity transit and reaching many neighborhoods characterized by higher poverty rates and more ethnic diversity than in other parts of Portland. The Southwest Corridor runs through an area home to 26 percent of the region's jobs and 11 percent of the population.

With this grant, our region will undertake detailed planning in the five key nodes named above, aligning land use, local transportation choices, and development plans. The results will enable the educational institutions and others to anticipate and capture the economic, social and environmental value of planned regional high capacity transit investments. In addition, we will also develop place-based agreements that identify responsibilities for implementation of the plans. The agreements will focus on such issues as development patterns, housing affordability, safety improvements, infrastructure funding, job training, hiring, and ongoing participation and communication.

A 2014 TIGER grant for the Southwest Corridor and Powell-Division Opportunity Crescent projects would help bring the benefits of high capacity transit to the entire Portland metropolitan region and support the success of the next generation of residents by increased access to educational opportunity areas in our region.

Thank you for your full and fair consideration.

Sincerely,

Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress