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April 17, 2014

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

Dear Secretary Foxx:

Community Partners for Affordable Housing (CPAH) is pleased to provide this letter of support for 2014 TIGER grant funding for the Southwest Corridor and Powell-Division Opportunity Crescent projects. The Portland metropolitan region understands the highly competitive nature of these funds, and has worked hard to identify its top priority, and to ensure that the application meets all program criteria.

These two interconnected areas south of Portland's center (SW Corridor and Powell-Division) represent a rich ethnic diversity, who with improved transportation systems will have access to significant jobs and educational opportunities. Accessing jobs and educational facilities is particularly important for this population which experiences poverty at a higher average rate than others in the region.

CPAH is a community development corporation serving Southwest Portland and Eastern Washington County—essentially, the SW Corridor. We house over 700 individuals, many of whom depend on transit to get around in the Corridor and beyond—travelling to school, work, medical, and civic engagements in this manner.

By improving multi-modal transportation options in this area, we can make access to opportunity more equitable. Focusing on active transportation (increased bike and pedestrian connections in the region, and in connection to transit), will also help us improve health outcomes. This area is jobs rich and housing poor, and we will work with planning jurisdictions to ensure that high density, affordable, transit-oriented housing is a part of the mix, as the area is further developed (and redeveloped).

CPAH participates in a variety of land use, transportation and housing planning efforts in the SW Corridor area, and is extremely excited to help implement improvements that will grow opportunities for current and future residents and businesses. A 2014 TIGER grant for the SW Corridor and Powell-Division Opportunity Crescent, would help bring the benefits of high capacity transit to the entire Portland metropolitan region, reducing congestion and improving access to these job and educational facility-rich areas. We appreciate your consideration!

Sincerely,

Sheila Greenlaw-Fink
Executive Director

