



DIVISION MIDWAY ALLIANCE FOR COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT

April 21, 2014

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

Dear Secretary Foxx:

The Division Midway Alliance for Community Improvement is pleased to express its support for 2014 TIGER grant funding for the Southwest Corridor and Powell-Division Opportunity Crescent projects. Our region understands the highly competitive nature of this program and has worked hard to limit the number of applications and to ensure that all applications meet the program criteria.

The Southwest Corridor and Powell-Division projects are significant to our metropolitan region and will 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.

Together, these two corridors create a single crescent connecting the east and west sides of the metro region 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.

This project would connect the people who live in the Midway district with regional educational resources and, in part, address DMA's commitment to improve the livability of the residents in the area. This planning program will include and benefit the diverse population of over 14,000 people who live within ½ mile of SE Division Street between 117th & 148th Avenue in East Portland. In a City that is aging, projected demographics shows East Portland will have the largest concentration of youth in the future and the results from this grant will enable the educational institutions and others to anticipate and capture the economic, social and environmental value of planned regional high capacity transit investments.

DMA is especially supportive of Metro's commitment to place-based agreements that identify responsibilities for implementation of the plans as they relate to development patterns, housing affordability, safety improvements, infrastructure funding, job training, hiring, and ongoing participation and communication.

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The Division Midway Alliance For Community Improvement supports the 2014 TIGER grant for the Southwest Corridor and Powell-Division Opportunity Crescent projects. These 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 consideration.

Sincerely,

Lori Boisen
District Manager,
Division Midway Alliance
for Community Improvement

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