

East Multnomah County Transportation Committee

City of Fairview City of Gresham City of Troutdale City of Wood Village Multnomah County Port of Portland

April 21, 2014

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

Dear Secretary Foxx:

The East Multnomah County Transportation Committee (EMCTC) is pleased to express our **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.

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 consideration.

Sincerely,



Diane McKeel
Multnomah County Commissioner
Chair, East Multnomah County Transportation Committee

cc: Lisa Barton Mullins, City of Fairview
Jerry Hinton, City of Gresham
Doug Daoust, City of Troutdale
Tim Clark, City of Wood Village
Susie Lahsene, Port of Portland