



East Metro
Economic
Alliance

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Exec Director:

Travis Stovall

April 21, 2014

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

Dear Secretary Foxx:

East Metro Economic Alliance is pleased to express our support for 2014 TIGER grant funding for the Southwest Corridor and Powell-Division Opportunity Crescent projects. The Portland Metro area understands the need to narrow the list to assist in moving applications forward that are relevant and complete. We have worked hard to select the highest and best candidates for the TIGER grant funding.

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.

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. Specifically in our part of the region we will see enhanced transportation options to Mt Hood Community College, which is the primary post-secondary educational institution in our part of the region. This critical education resource is important as we continuously evaluate how we stay competitive on a global scale. Without these needed transportation connections we are challenged in providing students with the best opportunity to enhance their skills, knowledge and abilities.

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,

Travis L. Stovall
Executive Director