



homeforward

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April 15, 2014

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

Dear Secretary Foxx:

Home Forward is the housing authority serving Multnomah County – the largest, most populous county in the State of Oregon. With over 6,000 owned housing units and 9,000 Housing Choice Vouchers (Section 8) under our administration, the agency has over 15,000 households in our care. Households consisting of the elderly/disabled, veterans, homeless and other special needs populations, and working families both large and small – all at either low, very-low, or zero income.

For the vast majority of our residents and clients, the availability of public transit plays a critical role in their everyday lives. Lacking other modes of transportation our residents and clients rely on public transit to deliver them quickly and safely to work, school, medical and case management appointments, and with everyday chores such as grocery shopping. And although Home Forward may house people only within Multnomah County, a healthy *regional* transportation system is essential as our clients' daily activities are not limited to within the one county.

Moreover, we also know that the housing authorities in our neighboring counties (the region) have clients that face the same challenges and have the same needs as do ours and that the matter of transportation is of equal importance to all the disadvantaged, low-income communities we serve collectively throughout the region.

Therefore Home Forward is very pleased to express our support for 2014 TIGER grant funding for the Southwest Corridor and Powell-Division Opportunity Crescent projects. As an entity that has had to compete nationally for HUD HOPE VI funding multiple times (successfully), we completely understand the highly competitive nature of this program and consequently applaud the effort made regionally towards limiting the number of applications submitted and towards ensuring that all applications meet program criteria.

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 from our perspective, aid tremendously in the support and success of all disadvantaged residents both now, and into the future.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Betty Dominguez
Director of Policy and Equity