



OREGON LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

900 Court Street NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

April 18, 2014

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

Dear Secretary Foxx:

As members of the Oregon Legislature representing the Powell-Division corridor on the east side of the Portland metropolitan region, we are 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.

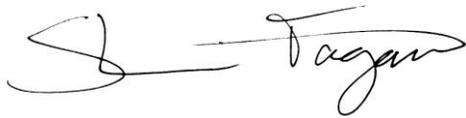
Through participation on the Powell-Division steering committee and in many other settings, we have been working to facilitate and stimulate additional public investment in East Portland and East Multnomah County. We are pleased to work hand in hand with local residents and businesses to help plan a transit project that will provide much needed transportation improvements in this area, and to empower community members to forge better connections with the education and employment resources in their communities.

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,



Rep. Shemia Fagan
House District 51



Senator Rod Monroe
Senate District 24



Rep. Alissa Keny-Guyer
House District 46



Sen. Michael Dembrow
Senate District 23



Rep. Jessica Vega Pederson
House District 47



Rep. Jeff Reardon
House District 48



Sen. Laurie Monnes Anderson
Senate District 25



Rep. Chris Gorsek
House District 49