April 17, 2014

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

Dear Secretary Foxx:

Northwest Health Foundation is pleased to express our support for 2014 TIGER grant funding for the Southwest Corridor and Powell-Division Opportunity Crescent projects.

For us, health is far more than healthcare. We understand that the wellbeing of our communities is served by the opportunity for education and a good job, clean air, and options that help us be more physically active. We also know that these opportunities are often kept from our most underserved communities—communities of color in particular. We have got to plan differently.

The Southwest Corridor and Powell-Division projects are a chance to do just that. 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 though an area home to 26 percent of the region’s jobs and 11 percent of the population.

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—and health—of the next generation of residents by increased access to educational and economic opportunity in our region.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Nichole Maher
President