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April 23, 2014

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

NW Natural is pleased to express our **support** for 2014 TIGER grant funding for the Southwest Corridor and Powell-Division Opportunity Crescent projects in Oregon. Metro, our regional governmental body, and local cities understand the highly competitive nature of this program and have 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 the Portland metropolitan region. 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.

As a natural gas utility, we rely on an efficient transportation system that allows our employees to commute to work and our crews to access our customers throughout our service territory. Our crews traverse our community daily installing natural gas service, maintaining our pipes and equipment, and when necessary responding to emergencies on our system or at a customer's premise.

This grant will help our region undertake detailed planning, aligning land use, local transportation choices, and development plans. The results will enable our community to anticipate and capture the economic, social and environmental value of planned regional high capacity transit investments.

We encourage your positive consideration of a 2014 TIGER grant for the Southwest Corridor and Powell-Division Opportunity Crescent projects. The grant 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'TJ Imeson', written over a horizontal line.

Thomas J. Imeson

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