



April 18, 2014

Honorable Anthony Foxx
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

RE: Support TIGER application of Metro Regional Government

**Campus Development &
Administration**
Mail code L101
3181 S.W. Sam Jackson Park Road
Portland, OR 97239-3098
tel 503 494-1451

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I am writing to express my support for the TIGER planning grant application submitted by Metro Regional Government. Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU) is Oregon's only public academic health center and is Portland's largest employer. This grant would improve access to our campus for students, employees and patients, disproportionately benefiting those who are transit dependent. Our facilities sit right at the crossroads of the Southwest and Powell/Division Corridors addressed by this grant.

OHSU has grown significantly in size since the 1990s, when we made an intentional decision to concentrate our growth in a dense, urban environment rather than on available suburban land. Our decision to stay and grow in Portland was in part a vote of confidence that our region would continue to innovate when it comes to expanding the regional transportation system that so many businesses, schools and organizations rely upon. Our continued commitment to the central city is also supportive of Goal #1 of OHSU's Strategic Plan: "Be a great organization, diverse in people and ideas."

OHSU has over 14,000 employees who travel from throughout the region to reach our patient care, research, academic and office facilities. We provide a wide range of jobs – from the healthcare-related to carpenters, interpreters and public safety officers. The average wage and compensation for direct employees of OHSU was \$76,589 (2012\$). In 2012, the statewide average wage and compensation per employee was \$43,643—direct employees of OHSU wages and benefits were 75 percent greater than the state average in 2012. The SW Corridor and Powell/Division Corridor projects would provide a better connection between our large supply of family wage jobs and some of the region's more economically disadvantaged residents.

In addition to employment, OHSU offers world-class education for tomorrow's doctors, dentists and nurses; for scientists and engineers; and for a vast array of other healthcare professionals. We are committed to supporting an environment where students from historically underrepresented populations can thrive and maximize their potential. For those students who must travel great distances to reach us, the positive impact of a convenient transit commute cannot be overstated.

Thank you for your consideration of my views on this application, which I fully endorse without reservation or qualification. The project is a good fit for the TIGER program, and I am requesting your support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mark Williams", is written over a light blue circular stamp.

Mark Williams
Vice President