



Oregon

John A. Kitzhaber, M.D., Governor

Oregon Transportation Commission

355 Capitol Street NE, MS #11

Salem, OR 97301-3871

April 18, 2014

The Honorable Anthony Foxx
Secretary of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE
Washington, DC 20590

Re: TIGER Planning grant application for Powell/Division—Southwest Corridor

Dear Secretary Foxx:

The Oregon Transportation Commission is pleased to offer its strong support of the Metro Regional Government's application for TIGER Planning grant funding for the Powell/Division—Southwest Corridor.

After reviewing this proposal, we agree that the planning project would benefit Oregon's transportation system, and it would have a positive impact on the state's economy and the livability of its largest community. The Commission believes this project would be a strong candidate for TIGER Planning grant funds, and the Oregon Department of Transportation is partnering with the Metro Regional Government as a co-sponsor for the planning project.

Metro is currently leading long-term planning efforts for the Powell-Division and Southwest corridors, the two highest priority mobility corridors in the region. High capacity transit alignments, as well as roadway and active transportation system needs, are being studied in both corridors. Available funding is insufficient to undertake access plans and development strategies for other than key areas. The proposed planning project would expand corridor planning efforts to include full neighborhood access plans and development strategies. Among the neighborhoods that would be considered under an expanded planning effort are some of the state's most diverse localities with residents who often experience ongoing poverty, long commute times to work and limited access to nearby opportunities. Implementation of access plans and development strategies resulting from an expanded corridor planning effort can increase and enhance transportation choices and services available to underserved populations, thereby improving their quality of life, connections to work, schools, health care, friends and relatives, and commercial and recreational areas.

Thank you for considering this planning grant application.

Sincerely,

David Lohman
Acting Chair, Oregon Transportation Commission