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April 18, 2014

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

Dear Secretary Foxx:

On behalf of the Portland Business Alliance, I would like to express our enthusiastic support for 2014 TIGER grant funding for the Southwest Corridor and Powell-Division Opportunity Crescent projects. The Alliance represents nearly 1,700 small, medium, and large businesses in the Portland-metro region and is a strong advocate for improving the region's transportation infrastructure to help spur a prosperous economy. Our mission is to promote and foster an environment that attracts, supports, and retains private-sector jobs and improves incomes for the region's residents.

The Southwest Corridor and Powell-Division projects have been identified as regional priorities for near term investment in high capacity transit. The Southwest Corridor is a critical transportation route, containing 26 percent of the Portland-metro region's jobs and linking Portland to suburban communities including Tigard and Sherwood. Powell and Division streets stretch from the city of Gresham on the eastern edge of the region to the Portland core, running through more than 10 distinct neighborhoods, some of which are underserved by infrastructure. Investments along these transportation networks are critical to encouraging economic prosperity and accommodating future employment and population growth.

Together, these two corridors connect the east and west sides of the metro region and converge at the Innovation Quadrant on Portland's waterfront, where major transit projects have led to transformative investments by local universities, developers, and employers. The public-private collaboration drives the Innovation Quadrant and includes Oregon and Health and Sciences University, Portland State University, and Portland Community College's workforce training center, with a combined regional economic impact of more than \$4 billion.

Metro will leverage its current planning efforts with this TIGER grant to provide a "last mile" investment in those areas most important to communities along these significant corridors. A 2014 TIGER grant for the Southwest Corridor and Powell-Division Opportunity Crescent projects would increase access to employment and educational opportunities for our region's residents.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Bernie Bottomly'.

Bernie Bottomly  
V.P. Government Affairs &  
Economic Development

*Greater Portland's Chamber of Commerce*