



22 April 2014

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

Dear Secretary Foxx,

Portland Community College (PCC) is pleased to submit this letter in support of Metro's 2014 TIGER grant application (Access to Opportunity Corridor grant). This grant would support the success of the next generation of residents by increased access to educational and employment opportunity areas in our region. In particular, this grant seeks to bring significant transportation improvements to the Southwest and Powell-Division corridors that directly serve the College's Sylvania Campus and expanding Southeast Center, respectively.

With the passage of PCC's 2008 voter-approved bond measure, the College is investing over \$114 million to create dramatic improvements to Sylvania and Southeast, the two campuses close to these two corridors. The remodeling and upgrading of existing College facilities, building of new classrooms, libraries, and student service areas, and the introduction of new instructional technologies will allow the College to serve more students, helping to create more skilled workers close to where they live and work.

However, a key factor in accessing education is actual physical mobility access. Given that the majority of PCC students are juggling their academic schedules with family and work obligations, many currently rely on a single occupant vehicle to get them to and from school. Though the College has implemented an aggressive transportation demand management program in recent years and use of alternative transportation options has increased especially at the College's more urban sites, increased access to efficient, timely transportation choices continues to be an important student need.

Investment in high capacity transit at a time when the College is making major financial investments multiplies the possible advantages. Together, the two corridors being considered to receive Opportunity Grant dollars create a single crescent connecting the east and west sides of the Metro region, meeting in the middle at Portland's emerging Innovation Quadrant and close to the college's CLIMB (Continuous Learning for Individuals, Management and Business) Center.

HCT will provide an opportunity to build safer, more walkable, more affordable communities around station areas, allowing future developments to take advantage of high quality transit service. This is the kind of partnership that the college envisioned as it began its expansion plans of the Southeast Center.

We look forward to working with Metro and other regional partners in helping to create truly innovative and effective transportation networks that result in dramatic gains in student access to the educational opportunities that Portland Community College offers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. J. McEwen".

R. J. McEwen
College Vice President