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Executive Director

April 18, 2014

Secretary Anthony Foxx
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE
Washington, DC 20590

RE: Support TIGER VI application for Southwest Corridor and Powell-Division Opportunity Crescent project

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I am writing to express the Portland Development Commission's (PDC) support for 2014 TIGER grant funding for the Southwest Corridor and Powell-Division Opportunity Crescent projects. Our region understands the highly competitive nature of this program and has 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 our metropolitan region and will focus resources on five important places and the educational institutions that define them: Mt. Hood Community College; Portland Community College and the Jade District; the region's Innovation Quadrant; the Portland Community College Sylvania neighborhood area; and the Tigard Triangle.

The PDC was created by Portland voters in 1958 and has been a driving force in Portland's reputation for vibrancy and livability. As Portland's urban renewal and economic development agency, we are keenly interested in the success of this project because of the many objectives this project will achieve: jobs, increased exports, better freight movement and increased livability for underserved neighborhoods. While the benefits will be shared by the city, the region, the state, and beyond, PDC is particularly enthusiastic about the project's potential to serve southeast Portland. Dependable public transportation is critical to all Portlanders, but particularly to those who don't own a car, live in poverty, and commute across the region at all hours to access employment and services.

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.

A 2014 TIGER grant for the Southwest Corridor and Powell-Division Opportunity Crescent projects 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. PDC strongly supports the grant application.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Patrick Quinton
Executive Director

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