

Office of the President

Post Office Box 751
Portland, Oregon 97207-0751

503-725-4419 tel
503-725-4499 fax

April 17, 2014

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

Dear Secretary Foxx:

Portland State University (PSU) is pleased to express our support for 2014 TIGER grant funding for the Southwest Corridor and Powell-Division Opportunity Crescent projects.

The Southwest Corridor and Powell-Division projects are significant to the metropolitan region and to our university. PSU depends heavily on the connectedness of the region to allow students, faculty and staff access to the campus. The project will increase connectivity and focus resources on five important places and the educational institutions that define them: the Mt. Hood Community College area; the Portland Community College Jade District; the region's Innovation Quadrant; the Portland Community College Sylvania neighborhood; and the Tigard Triangle. All these institutions are important partners to PSU and share many students that are dually enrolled.

Together, the Southwest Corridor and Powell-Division Opportunity Crescent 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 areas of Portland. The Southwest Corridor runs through an area that is home to 26 percent of the region's jobs and 11 percent of the population.

With this grant, the region will undertake detailed planning in the five key nodes named above, aligning land use, local transportation choices, and development plans. The completed project will enable the educational institutions and entities to anticipate and capture the economic, social, and environmental value of planned regional high capacity transit investments. In addition, the project will develop place-based agreements that identify responsibilities for implementation of the plans. The agreements will focus on issues such as development patterns, housing affordability, safety improvements, infrastructure funding, job training, hiring and ongoing communication.

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.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Wim Wiewel
President