

April 15, 2014

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

Dear Secretary Foxx:

I am pleased to express TriMet's support for 2014 TIGER grant funding for the Southwest Corridor and Powell-Division Access to Opportunity Corridor.

This Access to Opportunity Corridor effort will allow our region to plan for smart transportation connections and development in five important places that are part of this region's ladders of opportunity. These are community colleges, medical and biotech education and research institutions, and areas for commercial and office development that will be connected to workforce-affordable housing by future high capacity transit projects.

The Access to Opportunity Corridor project will focus on five key 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 area; and the Tigard Triangle. Together, these two corridors create a single unified Opportunity Corridor connecting these key places with many neighborhoods characterized by higher poverty rates and more ethnic diversity than in other parts of our region. With this grant, our region will focus on the five key places, aligning transportation investments with public and private efforts. The effort will include agreements that identify responsibilities to implement development patterns that support transit and economic development, housing affordability, safety improvements, infrastructure funding, job training, hiring, and ongoing participation and communication.

A 2014 TIGER grant for the Southwest Corridor and Powell-Division Access to Opportunity Corridor projects would help us create what could be a national model to maximize 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 for funding this important regional partnership.

Sincerely,



Neil McFarlane
General Manager