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WESTSIDE ECONOMIC ALLIANCE



April 15, 2014

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

Dear Secretary Foxx:

Westside Economic Alliance (WEA) is pleased to support our region's application for 2014 TIGER grant funding for the Southwest Corridor and Powell-Division Opportunity Crescent projects. WEA is a non-profit organization comprised of public and private members from Washington County and the west side of Clackamas County. WEA advocates on behalf of our members for a healthy and vital economy where we live and do business.

The Southwest Corridor and Powell-Division projects are significant to our metropolitan region. They will 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 area; and the Tigard Triangle.

Together, these two corridors create a single crescent connecting the east and west sides of the Portland metro region. They will address the needs of many neighborhoods characterized by higher poverty rates and ethnic diversity. 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, our region will undertake detailed planning in the five key nodes named above, aligning land use, local transportation choices, and development plans. The results will enable the educational institutions and others to anticipate and capture the economic, social and environmental value of planned regional high capacity transit investments. In addition, we will also develop place-based agreements that identify responsibilities for implementation of the plans. The agreements will focus on such issues as development patterns, 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 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,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Pamela H. Treece".

Pamela Treece  
Executive Director  
Westside Economic Alliance