



City of Gresham

Mayor Shane T. Bemis

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September 16, 2011

Honorable Ray LaHood
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I am writing to express my support for the joint TIGER III grant application submitted by the Port of Portland, the City of Troutdale, and the Oregon Department of Transportation. This grant application for road improvements around the Troutdale Reynolds Industrial Park (TRIP) will significantly enhance employment, freight mobility, and community livability in Portland metropolitan region.

As a neighboring jurisdiction in East Multnomah County, the City of Gresham is a stalwart supporter of projects like this, that will help us grow the overall employment and economic development base for our citizens.

TRIP is one of the largest parcels of zoned industrial property in an increasingly constrained Portland metropolitan area. It is a brownfield site that the Port of Portland and City of Troutdale are transforming into a productive, job-generating industrial district. At the same time, the Port and Troutdale are carefully designing the development to also unlock the recreational and natural habitat potential of the surrounding area.

Thank you for your consideration of this important project. The TIGER III grant application submitted by the Port, Troutdale, and the Oregon Department of Transportation would complete the critical components necessary to fully develop the industrial park. The road, bicycle, pedestrian, trail, and stormwater improvements that would be funded by the TIGER III grant would open it up to additional businesses and jobs, transportation options, recreational opportunities, and natural habitat restoration. With this grant, the Troutdale Reynolds Industrial Park would become an even more valuable, balanced community asset.

Sincerely,

Shane T. Bemis
Mayor