

October 4, 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 the Portland, Oregon area.

I represent Gresham, the city directly south of Troutdale, I cannot convey strongly enough how much TRIP and the road improvements around TRIP would mean to my community. East Multnomah County has long had a transportation problem, it is an issue that we have done a great deal to try and address at the local county and state levels. I am a strong believer of not expecting any one level of government to shoulder the burden of major projects. I can honestly say that Oregon has done a lot to help meet our transportation needs, most notably, two years ago, we passed the state's largest transportation investment in a generation. Assistance from the Federal Government would allow us to complete this important project for East County.

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 City are carefully designing the development to also unlock the recreational and natural habitat potential of the surrounding area.

The TIGER III grant application 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.

Thank you for your consideration of my views in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. Matthews", written over a light blue horizontal line.

Greg Matthews  
Oregon State Representative (HD50- Gresham)