



October 3, 2011

MATT WAND
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
District 49

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.

TRIP is one of the largest parcels of zoned industrial property in the 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 submitted by the Port, the City, 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.

As a former "bedroom community," the East Multnomah County area had relied on long commutes for family-wage jobs. For many reasons, this model is no longer viable economically or environmentally. Receiving this grant will allow my neighbors to secure family-wage jobs in our community, allowing us to live and work here. This would promote a stronger local economy and also a stronger sense of community.

I would appreciate your consideration in this regard.

Sincerely,

Matthew Wand
State Representative HD-49