

Post Office Box 245



Troutdale, Oregon 97060

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:

We are writing to express 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.

The West Columbia Gorge Chamber of Commerce (WCGCC) is a trade association representing approximately 225 members to foster a stronger business climate and maintain a high quality of life for our members, the community partners, residents and tourists alike. The West Columbia Gorge Chamber of Commerce is organized for the advancement of economic, civic, commercial, cultural, industrial and educational interest of the communities it serves. The elements of the project outlined in the TIGER III grant request will do much to meet those goals.

TRIP is one of the largest parcels of zoned industrial property in an increasingly constrained Portland metropolitan area. The Port of Portland and City of Troutdale are transforming this brownfield site 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.

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

Sincerely,


Karen Schaaf, President


Steve Vanier, Secretary/Treasurer

Connecting Commerce and Communities to Create Economic Vitality

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