
The West Columbia Gorge
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Making Connections

September 23, 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:

The West Columbia Gorge Consortium is a partnership of the State of Oregon and four small municipalities at the mouth of the Columbia River Gorge operating under the lead of the West Columbia Gorge Chamber of Commerce. This partnership was formed to promote economic development and job growth in the West Columbia River Gorge. Though each city promotes and develops its own industrial and commercial assets, all of the cities understand the value to the entire region that will be realized by the full development of the Troutdale Reynolds Industrial Park. The West Columbia Gorge Consortium strongly supports the joint TIGER III grant application submitted by the Port of Portland, the City of Troutdale, and the Oregon Department of Transportation. The road improvements to the Troutdale Reynolds Industrial Park (TRIP) funded with this grant will significantly enhance employment, freight mobility, and community livability in the Portland, Oregon area.

The infrastructure to be funded with the assistance of this TIGER III grant submission by the Port, the City, and the Oregon Department of Transportation can complete critical elements of Troutdale Reynolds Industrial Park. The road, bicycle, pedestrian, trail, and stormwater improvements supported by the TIGER III grant will enable 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.

TRIP offers the largest assemblage of zoned industrial property in an increasingly constrained Portland metropolitan area. The Port of Portland and City of Troutdale are converting this brownfield site into a densely productive job center. The Port and City also recognize the importance of assimilating conservation of the recreational potential and natural habitat of the surrounding area into the development plan.

We appreciate the opportunity to speak in support of this application.

Sincerely,

David R. Eatwell, Economic Development Director
West Columbia Gorge Consortium