

COLUMBIA CORRIDOR
A S S O C I A T I O N

David Bragdon, Metro President
Rex Burkholder, JPACT Chair
600 NE Grand Ave.
Portland, OR 97232-2736

17 February 2005

Dear President Bragdon and Chair Burkholder,

The Columbia Corridor Association urges your support for funding the Leadbetter Street project at \$1.8 million.

You are already aware that the Columbia Corridor, a designated Regionally Significant Industrial Area (RSIA), is home to over 2000 businesses and is the largest economic development corridor in Oregon. Of greater significance, the Corridor is also home to the Rivergate Industrial Area and more specifically, to the businesses located on Leadbetter Street, including Columbia Sportswear, Helser Bros. Trucking, Oregon Transfer, Iron Mountain, and Oregon Metal Slitters. Unfortunately, you won't hear from the businesses that could locate on Leadbetter, if only the transportation system could support them.

The cul-de-sac'ed Leadbetter businesses and their employees rely on a single route, over an at-grade rail crossing, to reach Marine Drive. There are significant economic costs resulting from the common, yet unpredictable rail blockages of this single access. Burlington Northern is already doing what it can to minimize disruptions, and rail volumes will only increase with the anticipated growth at Columbia Grain, Oregon Steel and others. As a region, we need to support the growth in these businesses, while helping the businesses on Leadbetter to remain healthy and grow as well.

We don't envy your decision about how to spread funding among the projects before you. However, in these trying economic times, a project like Leadbetter, so directly tied to the health and development of new and existing traded-sector businesses should make your decision less difficult. Please don't miss this opportunity to make the Leadbetter project whole. We need this improvement on the ground as soon as possible.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify and for considering funding for Leadbetter at \$1.8 million.

Respectfully,

Corky Collier
Executive Director