

COLUMBIA CORRIDOR
ASSOCIATION

The Honorable Ron Wyden
US Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Gordon Smith
US Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Earl Blumenauer
US House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Darlene Hooley
US House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Peter DeFazio
US House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Greg Walden
US House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable David Wu
US House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

21 February 2006

RE: Northbound Ramp From Airport Way to I-205; Portland, Oregon

Dear Congressional Delegation:

The Columbia Corridor Association urges your support of the \$3 million preliminary engineering request by the Port of Portland for a new northbound ramp from Airport Way to I-205 in NE Portland. You have been very helpful in securing \$1 million in SAFETEA-LU; we ask you to help with an additional \$3 million to be funded in the 2007 Transportation Appropriations Bill.

The Columbia Corridor Association (CCA) represents the needs and interests of businesses and industries within the Columbia Corridor, a designated Regionally Significant Industrial Area (RSIA). The Corridor is home to 2000 businesses employing 55,000 people and is the largest economic development corridor in Oregon. Transportation is critical to our members and the economic health of the region.

CCA has worked closely with the Port of Portland for nearly 20 years. The Port has been an active partner on a number of improvements to the Columbia Corridor and development of the Airport Way Urban Renewal Area. Their leadership and support have been crucial to the economic development of the region.

The northbound Airport Way-I205 ramp is currently a major point of congestion. Increases in airport traffic and development in the area will cause the congestion to increase significantly in less than two years.

Portland International Airport (PDX) is experiencing higher than average increases in passenger and cargo traffic. In addition, Portland International Center is about to begin construction on a large development that will include retail, office and commercial. IKEA will open their first Oregon store there in Spring 2007. We are very glad to see development of this area finally take hold. To support this vitality, we must address this major bottleneck for traffic from eastern Multnomah County into Washington State.

We request \$3 million to continue the preliminary engineering of a northbound ramp that would carry the large increase in traffic. These federal funds would leverage \$8 million that the Port of Portland and private developers are contributing, totaling \$15 million in preliminary engineering.

The Columbia Corridor Association strongly urges your support of this appropriations request. Without an improved ramp, increased use of PDX and development of this area is at risk.

Thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Corky Collier". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Corky Collier
Executive Director