

COLUMBIA CORRIDOR  
ASSOCIATION

Stuart Foster, Chair  
Oregon Transportation Commission  
c/o Julie Rodwell, Manager  
Oregon Department of Transportation Freight Mobility Section  
555 13th Street NE, Suite 2  
Salem, Oregon 97301-3871

14 February 2006

Re: Port of Portland applications for ConnectOregon funding

Dear Chair Foster,

The Columbia Corridor Association (CCA) represents the needs and interests of the 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. Freight transportation, specifically intermodal 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, involving the shipping terminals and the airport. Their leadership and support have been crucial to the economic development of the region.

The Port's ConnectOregon funding requests will lead to improvements that will increase market access for Oregon industries, especially for the state's agricultural economy. The three key projects the Port has identified will make significant improvements to freight mobility, productivity and congestion. We believe these improvements will make a difference in the future of the state's economy.

A fourth Post-Panamax Crane at the Port's Terminal 6 will:

- Increase productivity and capacity at Terminal 6;
- Ensure more reliable and efficient service for our customers;
- Improve connections to road and rail as containers are moved more efficiently off ships and onto other modes of transport;
- Strengthen our market base by providing more reliable delivery; and
- Make the Port more attractive to container carriers that are currently not providing service through Terminal 6.

Improvements to the Ramsey Rail Yard in the Rivergate Industrial Area will:

- Enhance rail cargo capabilities for unit and shuttle trains and manifest rail traffic;
- Allow more timely interchange between Class I railroads;
- Improve the staging capabilities for marine terminal complexes in Rivergate, freeing up Class I railroad mainline capacity as recommended in the I-5 Trade and Transportation Study Rail capacity analysis; and
- Increase the reliability of rail service and reduce the amount of delay currently experienced in Rivergate.

Terminal 4 Rail and Barge Infrastructure Improvements will:

- Provide Terminal 4 with a key piece of rail infrastructure needed to support the receipt and delivery of 100 car unit trains;
- Ensure that projected trade growth and the addition of new export activity can be accommodated at Terminal 4 without negatively affecting existing local rail users; and
- Provide improved market access for Oregon agricultural producers and existing terminal users.

CCA believes these projects are crucial components of the continued growth and development of our region's economy. We urge your support of funding for the Port's three *ConnectOregon* projects.

Sincerely,

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

Corky Collier  
Executive Director