

COLUMBIA CORRIDOR  
ASSOCIATION

Portland City Council  
1221 SW 4th Avenue  
Portland, OR 97204

1 May 2006

re: Freight Master Plan

Dear Mayor Potter and City Commissioners:

The Columbia Corridor Association has had the privilege of being a member of the Portland Freight Committee as it developed the Freight Master Plan. The hard work, insight and appreciation for freight mobility that went into this Plan are truly impressive. Our compliments to the Committee members and to an excellent Transportation Bureau staff: John Gillam, Deena Platman and consultant Sorin Garber. It is our hope that the implementation of the Plan will reflect the spirit and intentions of the people that put so much effort into it.

The Columbia Corridor is home to 2500 businesses with 55,000 employees and is a Regionally Significant Industrial Area (RSIA). Fourteen percent of the businesses in the Columbia Corridor are in transportation and warehousing, 20% are in wholesale trade, and 16% are in manufacturing. That's 50% of the largest industrial corridor in Oregon that relies directly on efficient daily freight transportation.

Many of the Association's members believe that we run the risk of losing large industrial employers if we do not improve our freight transportation system. There is little doubt this risk exists. However, the bigger danger comes not from the loss of high-profile companies, but rather from the gradual leakage of economic vibrancy. As freight slows, the Portland economy slows.

Trucking is a large element of this, but the Plan also integrates rail, shipping, air freight and pipelines. One of Portland's great strengths has always been its multi-modal freight capabilities. The Plan builds on this strength.

The Plan is a living document; a first step toward improvements in our freight transportation system that will benefit the economy and individual residents. CCA strongly supports this innovative community process and looks forward to the continuing

work. By drawing the connections between freight and residents in technical papers and meetings, the Portland Freight Committee is creating relationships between different groups in our community.

The Freight Master Plan is an excellent example of a City working together to improve our economy to sustain our beloved quality of life. CCA encourages your support of the Freight Master Plan and continued planning through the Portland Freight Committee.

Respectfully,

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

Corky Collier  
Executive Director