

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

September 22, 2009

Honorable Ray LaHood  
Secretary of Transportation  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.  
Washington, D.C. 20590

RE: Port of Portland/City of Portland TIGER Grant Application

Dear Mr. Secretary:

The Columbia Corridor Association (CCA) strongly supports the joint application by the Port of Portland and City of Portland for a Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grant. CCA represents the needs and interests of the businesses located within the Columbia Corridor, a designated Regionally Significant Industrial Area. The Columbia Corridor is the single largest industrial area in Oregon, covering 28 square miles, just 15 minutes north of downtown Portland. The Corridor stretches along the south shore of the Columbia River, from the Willamette River in the west to the Sandy River in the east.

This collaborative proposal from the City and Port is focused on bringing approximately 50 acres of waterfront industrial property at Terminal 4 (T4) into shovel-ready status as well as improving rail infrastructure and roadway surfaces and drainage on Lombard Street from the entrance to T4 north to the intersection with Columbia Blvd.

The Lombard-Burgard road and bridge improvements will improve travel times and safety for trucks and other commerce on Lombard-Burgard, a National Highway System Intermodal Connector. The improvements will add a center turn lane and upgrade the asphalt road to concrete from the Terminal 4 entrance on Lombard-Burgard north to the intersection with North Columbia Blvd. These improvements will benefit both the transportation providers as well as local residents. The addition of a new sidewalk on the east side and bicycle lanes in both directions will provide much needed safety improvements in this corridor as well.

The rail improvements will increase train speeds and safety for the St. Johns Lead. Fluidity in rail movement is critical and St. Johns Lead plays an important role in keeping the trains in the region moving. This link not only serves Rivergate, a major west coast distribution center, but with connections to Peninsula Junction it also acts as an alternate route to Seattle and other destinations north, south, east, and west.

In summary, this grant proposal supports key infrastructure and site development projects that will both support existing jobs as well as create new jobs to help boost the local economy. Thank you for your attention to this request and please contact us if you require additional information.

Sincerely,



Corky Collier  
Executive Director